The Daily and Weekly Commercial.—NEWS PAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Post Office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send them until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take News papers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

☞ Remittances must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks, or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the Money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 16. WEEKLY EDITION. FEBRUARY 28, 1874.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 19, 1874.

SENATE.

Petitions for the repeal of the Local Option law were presented by Messrs. Waream, Humphreys and Cooper.

The Judicial Apportionment bill was resumed. Mr. Rutan offered several amendments, which were discussed and postponed.

Mr. White called attention to the fact that an attempt was being made to blackmail banks.

An act permitting defendants to testify was read a second time. Messrs. McKinley and Wallace opposed, and Messrs. Cutler, White and Fitch favored the bill, which was postponed for the present.

HOUSE.

In the House this afternoon the assertion was made that a large amount of money was being raised by assessment in the various banks to pass the Usury bill. Circulars had been sent by Sanders and Gibbons to various banks. The names of bankers here were attached, which they pronounce as unauthorized and forgeries, and denounce the attempt. A special committee, consisting of Messrs. Young, Orvis and McCreery, were appointed to investigate the matter.

Messrs. Newmyer and Hays were delayed on the Cincinnati express until after the session adjourned, and were not pleased that the matter had not been postponed until their arrival, as they would have both denounced the attempt to raise money as a flagrant outrage upon a worthy measure in which they had both been the open and fearless and incessant an effort as ever they applied to any purpose, and if any member of the House were implicated they would promptly move his expulsion.

The circular of the bank blackmailers was read and action taken as above indicated, when the act regulating the tax on corporations was called up. Speaker McCormick made an effort to have the building of associations exempt from taxation under this bill. Adjourned.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 20, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Collins presented the petition of seven thousand citizens of Luzerne county for the repeal of the Local Option law.

Mr. Cooper—From conference of the New Garden Monthly Meeting of Friends, of Chester county, against the repeal of the Local Option law.

Mr. Ermentrout—The petition of citizens of Kutztown, Berks county, praying for the repeal of the act, entitled, "A supplement to the act for the regulation of boroughs," approved April 23, 1851.

Mr. Ermentrout also offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns it adjourn to meet on Monday evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

Mr. Lamon, of Philadelphia, moved to amend by inserting Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Lost by a vote of 11 to 13.

Mr. Fitch moved to amend by inserting to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, but subsequently withdrew the amendment.

The question being on the original resolution, it was agreed to by a vote of 13 yeas to 12 nays.

Mr. Wallace, of the Committee on Constitutional Reform, reported as committed, an act entitled "An act to regulate the mode of increasing the indebtedness of municipalities, to provide for the redemption of the same, and to impose penalties for the illegal increase thereof."

Bills on second reading being next in order,

Mr. Rutan moved to proceed to the consideration of the Judicial Apportionment bill, and withdrew that part of his amendment detaching the county of Wyoming from the Twenty-third district, composed of the counties of Columbia, Sullivan, Wyoming and Montour, and adding it to Susquehanna.

The amendment, as follows, was agreed to: That Warren be detached from Erie county, and that Erie constitute the Twenty-fourth district: that Forest be detached from Venango, and that Venango constitute the Thirty-first district; that Elk be detached from Jefferson and Clarion, and that Jefferson and Clarion constitute the Thirty-second district; that Green and Fayette constitute the Fourteenth district; that Warren, Elk and Forest constitute the Thirty-seventh district.

Mr. McSherry moved to amend by detaching the county of Adams from the Fifth district, composed of York and Adams, and erecting another district, to be known as the Forty-second district, composed of the county of Adams. The amendment was not agreed to, and the first section as reported was agreed to.

The second section, which provides for additional law judges in the Eleventh, Second, Twelfth, Fifth, Thirty-fourth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-third districts, was read, when Mr. White moved to strike out the Twenty-third district, composed of Columbia, Montour, Wyoming and Sullivan. After considerable discussion, participated in by Messrs. White, Strang, Rutan, Wallace and Chalfant, on a call of the yeas and nays the amendment was defeated by a vote of 22 nays to 1 yea. On a motion to agree to the section, it was agreed to—yeas 22, nays 1. The remaining sections were agreed to on first reading.

The following bill passed first reading: Senate bill No. 2, entitled "An act to provide for the organization and regulation of insurance companies."

The Senate adjourned until Monday evening at half-past seven o'clock.

HOUSE.

After the reading of the journal, Mr. Newmyer said that on his arrival in Harrisburg last night he learned for the first time, and with great surprise, that an attempt had been made by some unknown parties to levy blackmail on the banks and bankers of this Commonwealth by means and in the manner stated in a circular. He denounced this disgraceful attempt and urged the fullest and freest investigation of the charges, and suggested that additional powers be given the committee. Agreed to.

The Usury bill then came up. After several dilatory motions, Mr. Mitchell got the floor and made the best speech of the session in favor of repealing all rates.

Mr. Orvis followed and Mr. Wolfe called the previous question, which was not agreed to. The morning hour expired, and the bill went over.

R. H. King, President of the Cash Insurance Company, Wm. H. Forsythe, of the Boatman's, and S. S. D. Thompson, of the Armenia, had a conference with Insurance Commissioner Montgomery Foster this morning on the new bill. Several changes were agreed upon. The first change enlarges the limits within which companies are allowed to invest in first mortgages, leaving it optional with the Board. The second provides that the time for the payment of notes for subscriptions to the capital stock shall be extended for two years from the present time and that no cash dividends shall be declared until these notes are paid up in full. The bill will then, it is thought, be acceptable to all concerned.

The two ends who were putting it up on the Harlow banks on behalf of the Usury bill had their headquarters at the Bolton House, where the letters were being received. Quite a number of banks have mailed letters to them and stopped there since the exposure occurred. It is said they are both members of the House.

HARRISBURG, February 21, 1874.

HOUSE.

Many petitions were presented and referred to appropriate committees.

Mr. Brockway submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the special committee appointed on Thursday last to investigate the alleged attempt to swindle the banks of this State be instructed to inquire, so far as practicable, the names and locations of the banks which contributed to the fund asked for in a circular signed by Gibbons and Saunders, and the amounts contributed, and to report the same to this House.

Mr. Webb offered a resolution that, until otherwise ordered, the House will hold sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week, commence at 3 o'clock P. M. and adjourn at 6 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Mr. Newmyer, the resolution was amended by striking out Friday and 6 P. M. and then passed.

Mr. Little moved that the hall of the House be tendered on Tuesday next, from 3 to 7 o'clock P. M., for the Legislative reunion. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Oliver, the Sub-Committee on Education were granted leave of absence on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next.

Mr. Vogdes, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported an appropriation for the Western State Penitentiary.

Mr. Gerwig, from the same committee—An appropriation for the House of Reform, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Mitchell, from the same committee—An appropriation for the Pennsylvania Reform School.

Mr. Wainwright, from the same committee—An appropriation for the Eastern State Penitentiary.

Mr. Bates, from the same committee—An appropriation for the Society for the Alleviation of the Miseries of Public Prisons.

Mr. Gan, from the same committee—An appropriation for the expenses of the State Board of Public Charities.

Mr. Mylin, from the same committee—An appropriation for the Orthopœdic Hospital of Philadelphia.

Mr. Oliver, from the Committee on Education, reported an act to provide for the due training of teachers in the common schools of the Commonwealth.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Reynolds—To define the liability of sureties upon written instruments for the payment of money.

Mr. Newmyer—For the better protection of persons and property from damage by petroleum, and for the appointment of inspectors.

Mr. Allen, of Dauphin county—To provide for the publication of the ninth volume of the transactions of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society.

Mr. Allison—To regulate the sale of goods, wares and merchandise in the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Bates—A supplement to the militia act of April, 1864.

Mr. Gerwig—Making the office of Mayor a salaried office.

Mr. Carey—To make valid the title to real estate when the deeds have not been properly acknowledged; also to make valid the title to real estate in cases where executors, administrators or others acting in a fiduciary capacity have conveyed the same.

Mr. Brockway—For the better regulation of appeals from assessment of damages by viewers of property taken for public use.

Mr. Jones, of Philadelphia—Requiring a census of the population and industries of the State, to be taken on the 1st of June, 1875; also to repeal an act to allow the voters of the Twenty-second ward, Philadelphia, to vote on the question of granting license to sell intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Talley—To provide for an equitable mode of assessing and taxing machinery in use by manufacturers.

Mr. Cross—For an appropriation to the State Normal School; also to provide for the expenses required by an act entitled an act to provide for the continuance of the education and maintenance of the destitute orphans of deceased soldiers and sailors, etc.

Mr. Baird—To prevent the destruction of forests, farm fences and buildings by locomotives on railroads; to relieve the sureties of A. B. Kelly, late Prothonotary of Cambria county.

Mr. Allen, of Warren—Relative to burial grounds in incorporated boroughs.

Mr. Gressler—To provide for the decrease of the social evil, and to provide for the better government of houses of ill-fame.

Mr. McCullough—For the better security of the owner by payment of the wages of laborers, employees and others.

House bill No. 19, entitled an act to provide for better security in cases when bail is entered for stay of execution was considered and negatived in committee, when the House adjourned until Monday next, at two o'clock P. M.

The Bank Blackmailing Scheme—Arrest of a Postal Imp by the House as One of the Guilty Parties.

Warrants were issued this afternoon by United States Commissioner McCarroll for the arrest of J. M. Kreiter, of this city, and Wm. H. Dimmick, a member of the House, representing the counties of Pike and Wayne, charging them with violating the United States Postal laws by devising a scheme or artifice to defraud, by means of the postoffice establishment, the penalty for which offense is a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding eighteen months, or both, as the court shall direct.

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The Judicial Apportionment bill passed the Senate finally—yeas 20, nays 4.

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HOUSE.

Immediately upon reading the journal, twenty members sprang to their feet and loudly called for the floor.

The Clerk read the resignation of Mr. Dimmick, as follows:

To the Hon. Henry H. McCormick, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

SIR—I hereby resign my office as Representative for the district composed of Pike and Wayne counties. I have been induced to take this step by the fact that I have been made a defendant in the United States District Court on a charge of violation of the Postal laws of the United States. Fully comprehending that usefulness to my constituency has been and would hereafter by the mere fact that this charge has been preferred, I have decided to vacate my seat in the House. Conscious of the rectitude of my intention, and denying absolutely the truth of the charge which I am held to answer in the courts of the United States, I shall patiently wait for a judicial investigation. I have chosen to make no defense before the committee of the House appointed to inquire into this case, not because I am wanting in respect for the committee, but simply for the reason that it would be unjust to be tried twice and by different tribunals for the same alleged offense. I rely upon a just and impartial trial, under the laws of my country, for a complete vindication from the charge preferred against me, and until such trial shall have been had I ask a suspension of opinion on the part of the public and of those with whom I have been officially associated in this body.

Respectfully, W. H. DIMMICK.

Speaker McCormick announced that he would issue his writ for the election of a new member.

Mr. Newmyer objected to the reception of the resignation until the committee had reported. He said the committee were now ready to report on Dimmick's case, and that it was due to the public and the members that the facts should be first known, and then let justice take its course, whatever the result might be, even if it should be expulsion. He therefore moved to postpone the consideration of the resignation.

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This view was substantiated by Mr. Little, of Wyoming; Mr. Myer, of Bradford, Mr. Brockway and Mr. Orvis.

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The Speaker ruled that the motion could not be entertained, as the Legislature had no power over the resignation of a member.

The House then immediately adjourned to allow the committee to take further testimony.

A WOMAN'S VICTORY.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts Declares Ladies Eligible for School Commissioners.

BOSTON, February 21.—Whether or no a woman can legally hold office under the laws of Massachusetts has been a subject of vexed discussion for some years and it is pleasant to know that it has been summarily answered by the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court. Boston, it seems, elected three ladies to serve upon its School Board (one of whom, Mrs. Ann Adeline Badger, since drowned herself in Long Island Sound); and when these ladies made claim to their seats, the remaining members of the Board voted that they should be ousted. The question then went to the State Legislature and thence to the Supreme Judicial Court, which rendered the following decision yesterday afternoon:

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court respectfully submit the following answer to the question upon which their opinion was required in the order of the honorable House of Representatives on the 16th day of the present month. The question is stated in these words:

"Under the Constitution of this Commonwealth, can a woman be a member of a school commission?"

The question is limited to the effect of the Constitution upon the capacity of a woman to hold this office, and involves no interpretation of statutes. If the Constitution prevents a woman from being a member of the School Commission, it must, by force of some express provision thereof, or else by necessary implication, arising either from the nature of the office itself or from the law of Massachusetts, as existing when the Constitution was adopted and in the limit of which it must be read. The Constitution contains nothing relative to school commissions. The office is created and regulated by statute, and the Constitution confers upon the general courts full power and authority to name and settle annually or provide by fixed laws for naming and settling all civil officers within the Commonwealth, the election and constitution of whom are not in the Constitution otherwise provided for. The common law of England, which was our law upon the subject, permitted a woman to fill any local office or an administrative office, and the duties attached to which were such that a woman was competent to perform them. The duties of a School Commission relate exclusively to the education of children and youth in the town or city for which it is elected. They consist of the general charge and superintendence of the schools, including employment of teachers, the election of school books, and the regulation of the attendance of scholars and the preparation of school registers and returns, and they are in no respect of such a nature that they cannot be well and efficiently performed by women. The necessary conclusion is that there is nothing in the Constitution of the Commonwealth to prevent a woman from being a member of a School Commission, and that the question proposed must be respectfully answered in the affirmative.

JOHN WELLS, MARCUS MORTON,
JAMES D. COLT, WM. C. ENDICOTT,
SETH AMES, CHARLES DEVENS, JR.
HORACE GRAY,

PIQUA, OHIO.

Break in a Reservoir—Extensive Damage by Water.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PIQUA, O., February 23, 1874.

Saturday night the hydraulic bank, two miles north of Piqua gave way, giving escape to a body of water full a mile square and of an average depth of fifty feet. This torrent of water completely demolished and carried away a large barn on the farm of a Mr. Hatheway, and otherwise seriously injured his property. It also washed away a large bridge on the pike one hundred yards below the break, and the canal bank two hundred yards from the break. The total extent of the damage will probably exceed $20,000.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 19, 1874.

The Consular Service.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs will to-morrow consider the bill to reorganize the consular service. It provides for Consuls General with salaries from two thousand to six thousand dollars, and seven classes of Consuls from one thousand to four thousand dollars.

Franking Privilege Excitement in the House.

The debate on Mr. Packer's bill in relation to the franking of documents, which opened rather tamely yesterday, took a lively turn today and caused more excitement than anything that has occurred this session since the Salary Repeal bill was disposed of. Mr. Kasson, who represents a Granger constituency, and who is anxious to be recognized as a Granger leader, took the floor for a dead set against the pending bill. He asserted very strongly that the repeal of the franking privilege had resulted in a great saving to the government. But in spite of this assertion he could not explain how it happened that there was a greater deficiency than heretofore, and why it was that Mr. Cresswell's estimates for the next fiscal year were much greater than those recommended for the current year. Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, annoyed Mr. Kasson a good deal by his questions. Beck's questions led to a very exciting scene between himself and his colleague, Mr. Crossland, a member of the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads, and an opponent of the restoration of the franking privilege. Beck some time ago took issue with him, but, as he stated to-day, on that occasion he struck out his remarks at Mr. Crossland's request, because their insertion would have spoiled the force of the latter's remarks. Crossland, at this remark, approached Beck in a somewhat threatening manner. Members sprang from their seats and a large number congregated in the area in front of the Speaker's chair; others loudly called to order. The Speaker pounded and pounded with his gavel, but Mr. Crossland would not heed either the calls or the sound of the gavel, but rattled on at the top of his voice, all the while shaking his hand at Mr. Beck. Partial order was finally restored, and Mr. Crossland, having said his say, retired to one of the cloak rooms to cool off. Mr. Beck keeping his seat. This scene had not fully subsided when Mr. Kasson created another breeze by having placed upon the desk before him a number of baskets containing petitions that had been sent in for the repeal of the franking privilege. He was at once besieged by a storm of questions, members desiring to know whether it was not a fact that the heads of the bureaus had been instituted by order of the Postmaster General. If the petitions had been carefully examined, the fact would have been ascertained that in many cases where postmasters had sent the petitions in, they had inclosed letters stating that they forwarded the petition in accordance with directions from the Postmaster General. This renewed scene of confusion was too much for the House, and Mr. Kasson was not allowed to proceed further, and did not have the pleasure of finishing his speech. Just before the recess was taken an effort was made to fix a time for the debate, but the proposition was scouted, and it looks now as though the debate would run through the next week, to the exclusion of other questions except the reports of committees in the morning hour. Each member seems anxious to put himself on the record on the question.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20, 1874.

The House Committee on Appropriations have so far completed the Indian bill that it will be introduced early next week. It will abolish all Indian superintendents except one for the Indian Territory, abolish eleven Indian agents and the same number of interpreters, and many farmers, mechanics and other supernumeraries. In regard to interpreters, the committee have discovered that the agents have appointed their sons to these posts, while they are entirely incompetent. All these places have been rooted out. The Indian Commissioners are left very much with absolute power in making contracts and settling claims. This takes that prerogative out of the hands of the Commissioners of Claims, and also takes from the secretary of the Interior of his supreme authority, the settlements being mainly intrusted to clerks, while their superiors carry out their decisions. The committee are also very confident of uniform honesty, and have consequently changed the law. Parties dissatisfied with the action of the Commissioners in matters of claims are authorized to appeal to Congress. The Indian Commissioners are now contracting for supplies at a lower rate than known of late years. Instead of allowing four or five persons to monopolize the whole business, they have opened the contracts to competition. There are now fifty-seven contracts.

On the motion of Senator Merrimon, instructing the Finance Committee to report a bill increasing the circulation of national banks to four hundred millions, all the Senators from the New England and Middle States voted against expansion, save Messrs. Cameron and Sprague.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 22, 1874.

The Bankrupt Bill.

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Sermon by Bishop Pinckney.

The Right Rev. William Pinckney, D.D., Assistant Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, delivered an eloquent sermon at the Epiphany Church this evening, in which he took occasion to set forth the doctrines held by the Episcopal church of America as against the so-called Reformed Episcopal Church started by Bishop Cummins. Bishop Pinckney said that he would not give a discourse on forgiveness of sin, and after some preliminary observations on that subject explained the material differences between the English and American prayer book. Absolution and private confession, he said, were erased from the American book, and that people must confess to God. He alluded to the power exercised by the Roman clergy, and said that the effect was disastrous and injurious to the moral and spiritual independence of the people. The people need advice, but not dictation or confession. The prayer book, he said, was soundly Protestant, and speaks a language which every one understands. He cautioned the people against yielding to the destructive spirit of the age, which was a longing for change. The prayer book, he said, bore the impress of the early ages, and was the echo of the Bible. The spacious church was literally packed, and the sermon was listened to with profound attention.

Reorganization of the War Department.

The bill introduced from the House Committee on Expenditures in the War Department provides for the following organization in that department as compared with the present:

Office, &c.	Present. Persons.	Present. Ann'l Pay.	Proposed. Persons.	Proposed. Ann'l Pay.
Secretary	1	$8,000 00	1	$8,000 00
Archives	1	3,000 00	1	3,000 00
Adjutant General's	342	384,677 00	201	332,000 00
Inspector General's	2	2,400 00	2	2,000 00
Quartermaster General's	140	160,000 00	135	167,200 00
Paymaster General's	64	82,528 00	59	78,800 00
Commissary General's	21	27,562 00	21	28,500 00
Surgeon General's	238	270,652 84	199	180,000 00
Engineers	20	20,000 00	22	24,000 00
Ordnance	22	29,585 00	20	28,500 00
Military Academy	16	11,963 00	10	14,300 00
Signal Service	8	4,800 00	3	4,800 00
Total	942	$1,108,300 74	763	$865,700 00
Medical attendance for enlisted men		15,000 00		
	942	$1,119,300 74		
Immediate reduction	179	$135,347 74		
Temporary	146	$179,000 00		

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 23, 1874.

Visit of Senor Baez.

The sojourn in this city of Senor Baez, ex-President of San Domingo, is entirely without political significance. The elevation of Gonzales to the Presidency was the result of an election, and an uprising as attempted to be impressed upon the public mind. Baez has always entertained a high respect for this country and also for General Grant, and while *en route* for Europe he determined to pass a few weeks in this country. Fearing, however, that a misconstruction might be placed upon his presence here, he sent a letter here in advance, asking whether it would be agreeable to the President to receive him privately. The President courteously responded that it would be. Senor Baez has therefore been the recipient of numerous informal attentions. The President received him as the retired President of a neighboring republic. He also has had an interview with Secretary Fish, and has been entertained by General Babcock at a dinner at which Secretaries Fish, Belknap and Robeson and Admiral Porter were present. The latter was in reciprocation of similar attentions when the General was in San Domingo. Senor Baez, during his stay in Europe, will establish his residence in Paris, where he was educated.

Election of United States Senators.

The numerous propositions received from various parts of the country and which have been submitted to Congress urging an amendment to the Constitution, providing for the election of Senators by the people, have been referred, but as yet no reports have been made. The Legislatures of the States of California and Iowa have now come to the front and have passed resolutions urging the change, and have forwarded them to Congress. It is understood that they have also sent copies to the Governor and Secretary of State of each State in the Union. The views of the Committees on Privileges and Elections in the Senate and on Judiciary in the House are adverse to any alteration of the present mode of election, on the same grounds maintained by the framers of the Constitution.

Practical Reform—Sweeping Reductions in the Clerical Force of the Executive Departments—Congress in Earnest—A Comparative Exhibit—Clerks on the Anxious Bench—The Internal Revenue Bureau—The Force in 1866 and 1873—Increased Work of the Home Office.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 23, 1874.

The settled purpose of the House Committee on Appropriations to effect a marked retrenchment in the appropriations for the support of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, has, since the meeting of Congress, occasioned no little solicitude on the part of the army of civil employees in this city, and doubtless throughout the land. It was, therefore, with considerable anxiety that those interested awaited the reporting of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill. This was realized last week, and developed to what degree the ax of retrenchment would be applied to the various Executive Departments. As in all similar cases the first form of anxiety has been followed by another, even more serious and perplexing. In the first instance there was, up to the last, a hope that the heads of departments might persuade, if they could not demonstrate that the exigencies of the government business required the present force. The committee, however, were in dreadful earnest. The views of the secretaries, hitherto regarded with some deference, were totally ignored, the committee having discovered that the tenacity of an official in holding on to his place is only equaled by the pertinacity with which he strives for more. The committee also discovered that the opinion of the superior officer over any number of civil employees was in most cases where postmasters had sent the petitions in, they had inclosed letters stating that they forwarded the petition in accordance with directions from the Postmaster General. This renewed scene of confusion was too much for the House, and Mr. Kasson was not allowed to proceed further, and did not have the pleasure of finishing his speech. Just before the recess was taken an effort was made to fix a time for the debate, but the proposition was scouted, and it looks now as though the debate would run through the next week, to the exclusion of other questions except the reports of committees in the morning hour. Each member seems anxious to put himself on the record on the question.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20, 1874.

The House Committee on Appropriations have so far completed the Indian bill that it will be introduced early next week. It will abolish all Indian superintendents except one for the Indian Territory, abolish eleven Indian agents and the same number of interpreters, and many farmers, mechanics and other supernumeraries. In regard to interpreters, the committee have discovered that the agents have appointed their sons to these posts, while they are entirely incompetent. All these places have been rooted out. The Indian Commissioners are left very much with absolute power in making contracts and settling claims. This takes that prerogative out of the hands of the Commissioners of Claims, and also takes from the secretary of the Interior of his supreme authority, the settlements being mainly intrusted to clerks, while their superiors carry out their decisions. The committee are also very confident of uniform honesty, and have consequently changed the law. Parties dissatisfied with the action of the Commissioners in matters of claims are authorized to appeal to Congress. The Indian Commissioners are now contracting for supplies at a lower rate than known of late years. Instead of allowing four or five persons to monopolize the whole business, they have opened the contracts to competition. There are now fifty-seven contracts.

On the motion of Senator Merrimon, instructing the Finance Committee to report a bill increasing the circulation of national banks to four hundred millions, all the Senators from the New England and Middle States voted against expansion, save Messrs. Cameron and Sprague.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1874.

THE decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, asserting the constitutional right of women to be members of school committees, is already beginning to bear fruit. It has been referred to the Legislative Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to consider the propriety of reporting a bill.

A WASHINGTON letter writer says that "Parson" BROWNLOW is to the United States Senate what ALEXANDER H STEPHENS is to the House. This may be true, so far as the physical infirmities of the two men are concerned; in other respects the difference between them is as wide as the gulf that separates the feudal from the present Democratic age.

UNDER the system in vogue in Philadelphia, prior to the late election, there were in that city 307 election districts, and of these the Democrats carried 120. Under the new Constitution a new arrangement of districts was made, and the number was increased to 518, and of these the Democrats carried 118 at the late election. They do not appear to have profited much by the change.

EX-CONGRESSMAN IGNATIUS DONNELLY, at present "Reform" member of the Minnesota Legislature, is now charged by his constituents with receiving bribes, and with sharing the dishonest perquisites of Indian agent. Kicked out of the Republican party years ago because of his general untrustworthiness, he is now in high feather with the Democratic party, and is always to be found among the loudest and hoarsest brawlers for "retrenchment," "economy," and the overthrow of the Republican party. *Rejoiceet.* DONNELLY.

SOME time ago we mentioned the fact that a number of private bankers of this city had protested to the government against the payment of the tax of ten per cent. upon State circulation, upon the ground that the phrase "State Banking Association," in section six of the act of March 3, 1865, was intended to apply only to banking associations organized by special act of the State Legislature. The United States Attorney General has just decided that the phrase includes, also, all associations for banking by private agreement of parties.

HERE is another innocent looking meal tub with a furtive eyed feline monster in it. A bill has just been introduced in Congress to permit all persons of established loyalty to the government who had property destroyed in the South during the war, to go before the Court of Claims and sue the government for the amounts—the Supreme Court of the United States having already decided that every person who has been assessed to help the misery wrought, might inhere in an acknowledgment of its error. On the contrary, they all seem gather to gloat over the survey of the home they have desolated, and the life they have worse than destroyed—as if it were a feat to be proud of to break all the Ten Commandments at once.

A STRIKING illustration of an engineer hoist by his own petard, is furnished in the case of the Thirteenth ward election, Philadelphia. At the Republican primary elections in that ward, Mr. DUNLAP was nominated for Common Council, and Mrs. WORLEPER and Mrs. FAUST for School Directors. The ward was Republican, and there was no question raised as to the fairness with which these nominations were made. But, as the election progressed, Mr. DUNLAP got it into his head that the nomination of the women was unpopular, and that their remaining upon the Republican ticket would injure him, and probably defeat him. He therefore got the Ward Committee to throw the women off the ticket and nominate two men in their place. The women made fight, insisted on retaining their places on the ticket, and gathered their friends around them for active work; and the result was that the women were elected, and Mr. DUNLAP was defeated. The very thing he thought necessary to save him killed him. He will know better, probably, next time.

A WASHINGTON correspondent states that the changed political attitude of many of the Southern Senators and Representatives of the Democratic persuasion, has created not a little surprise in political circles. Many of them seem to have ignored, almost entirely, their States Rights doctrines, and to be depending upon the federal government in matters which they have heretofore regarded as pertaining exclusively to State jurisdiction. In the debates which have taken place this session, opinions have been expressed which would, a few years ago, have been considered extraordinary as coming from Southern Democrats, and many Northern Democrats are already expressing grave apprehensions as to the ultimate result of this change of front on the part of their Southern associates. Here now, is the opportunity of the *Post*. This recreant abandonment of the very citadel of the fortress of Democratic principles, by those in whom one would naturally expect to find its stoutest supporters, bodes ominously indeed, unless some electric leader shall presently spring forth in answer to the pressing need, and by the power of his great will make the retreating hosts face the other way. It is the hour for Bourbon heroism. What says our contemporary?

INSTRUCTIVE IN TWO WAYS.

In the forthcoming report of the Commissioner of Education ample details, we understand, will be given in illustration of a subject which one would hardly expect to find treated in such a document. The subject alluded to is the recent remarkable development of German commerce and of German influence in the commercial progress of the world. The subject has been lately much discussed in the English newspapers with the result of directing very general attention not only to the fact but to its causes. If we mistake not, the agitation began with an article in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, by Mr. FITZ JAMES STEPHEN, a lawyer and author of note, who not long ago returned from British India, where for several years he held a high legal position in the government. In the article referred to Mr. STEPHEN stated that in all the ports on the coast of Asia, Germans are in a fair way to take the lead of other nationalities; that in China, already powerful, they will soon control all exterior commercial matters in which Chinese capital is immediately concerned, and that in Birmah, Siam, the Malay Archipelago, and even in India, they are extending their influence with equal rapidity. Other witnesses came forward to confirm Mr. STEPHEN'S statement and to mention additional facts. Thus, it was shown that in the Chinese customs department the proportion of Germans employed is larger than of any other foreigners, and that in Japan also they are more successful than other Western men in obtaining service and in giving satisfaction.

But it is not only in the East that Germans are thus successful in making their way among foreigners. In the South American ports and in the West Indies German commerce has, of late years, taken prodigious strides, and in the counting houses of other nations Germans are extensively employed. How many of them were until lately employed in French establishments, at home and abroad, everybody knows, and in the English newspapers the fact is fully brought out, that in British commercial houses and in other branches of business, Germans readily obtain engagements in preference to natives of the island.

The general fact thus presented cannot be accounted for by referring it either to the vast number of Germans who emigrate, or to any natural qualities of the nationality. As to one of these theories, it is sufficient to say that in China more Britons and in Japan more Americans than Germans have been candidates for employment. The other theory is, we suppose, sufficiently set aside by the fact that the extraordinary success of Germans in the career of business is of rather recent origin. No doubt, the explanation given in English journals and also in Mr. Commissioner EATON'S forthcoming report is the true one. It is the excellent practical education which young Germans receive in their *Gewerbe*-schools and polytechnic schools to which they owe their prosperity in seeking for foreign employment and in retaining the positions they obtain.

There are, we know, a few Americans, as there are some Englishmen, who hear with impatience of the high estimate in the acumen of the Germans in the ways just indicated. It is, however, impossible to deny the fact, and it is certainly one of the most instructive, as well as remarkable, in the history of the world. It is instructive because it illustrates in so wonderful a way what may be accomplished even with a nation by means of education in a little more than fifty years. When JEAN PAUL, distributing the world among the nations, assigned the air to his compatriots, their apparent position and tendencies, moral and intellectual, seemed to justify the satire. Foreigners everywhere quoted and smiled at the sally as having at least a color of truth. Between the Germany of those days and the Germany of to-day, there is such a contrast as history nowhere else exhibits, and in the words, systematic education, there is contained nearly the whole secret of the difference. Certainly the transformation and its processes are worthy of more attention and study than they receive, especially if signs indicate that the people whose dominion was a few years ago the air, are destined before long to possess the whole earth.

However, we do not anticipate that other nations will suffer any serious inconveniences or, in fact, anything but benefits, from the extension of German conquests. Unless, indeed, Russia be an exception. The French, the English and the American peoples are all adopting the measures necessary to meet the formidable conquerors on their own terms, and the results can hardly be doubtful. Then the German mind, as a whole, becomes less effective and formidable with the lapse of every year. Though education has chiefly contributed to their peaceful conquests, their modesty and humility have also had considerable part in them, and of these useful qualities they have been steadily getting rid ever since their triumphs in France. It is not only or chiefly foreigners who take note of this deterioration; eminent German scholars see it still more clearly and make lamentation over the change. Thus one distinguished German professor has lately in a quite touching strain bemoaned the moral retrogression of his compatriots: "Alas! there is," he says, "no want of signs that the happy contrast to French self-sufficiency which Germany heretofore displayed is disappearing since the glory of the late victories." "German Liberals," he says, "overflow with talk of Germanism, of German unity, the German nation, the German church, German science, etc." The Professor might have added that even "German virtue" is now a familiar phrase, as if the Germans had got a superior article of the kind. But the Professor gives some anecdotes to show the ridiculous extreme into which German arrogance has run, and then declares that "the finest German characteristics are disappearing in an exaggerated Teutomania." So the rest of the world may take courage, it is in little danger from German superiority.

CONSISTENCY AND POPULARITY.

No speaker in this country, or perhaps in any country, addresses so large an audience as Mr. H. W. BEECHER. When in a Sunday sermon or in one of his Friday evening prayer meeting "talks," he chooses to discuss a topic of current interest, or merely to drop a casual remark concerning it, his words are at once "taken down" and spread before the millions of people who read the newspapers. And twenty, or five and twenty years have now elapsed since Mr. BEECHER began thus to discourse to the general public from his platform in Brooklyn. Besides sermons, during this lengthened period he has from time to time produced a book, how many volumes in all we know not. During most of the time he has also been connected with a newspaper of wide circulation, either as editor or as a regular contributor, and even his newspaper articles have been collected and reproduced in the form of books. Nor may his lectures be overlooked; lectures of recognized American pattern, designed for the entertainment of popular audiences, and lectures in systematic courses, two or three series in succession, prepared and delivered for the edification of the theological students of Yale College.

It is a remarkable example of intellectual fertility. Mr. BEECHER is not yet exhausted, and, indeed, gives no sign of being exhausted; what he says on subjects now seems to the average hearer as novel, and as worthy of being said as what he said on the same or other subjects ten or fifteen years ago. While it would be hazardous to assert that Mr. BEECHER does not repeat himself, it is safe to say that he still has fresh illustrations at command, that he probably never preaches a sermon or delivers a lecture without indicating analogies which his oldest and most attentive hearers do not recognize as familiar acquaintances. Indeed, while imagination shall continue to serve him in the future as in the past, and while good health leaves him in full possession of his clear, vigorous diction and excellent elocution, there is no reason why Mr. BEECHER should not maintain his brilliantly popular career for many long years to come. Preachers are liable to wear out intellectually in consequence of the definiteness and precision of their views of truth, that is, of what they believe to be the truth. They either adopt or construct for themselves systems of theology and ethics, and with every year, with each month of their ministry, their principles appear to them to become more clearly defined and settled. As to the practical application and relations also of their doctrines, these preachers are apt to grow ever more clear and confident, holding them to be not easily shaken or modified. If able men and diligent students, such clergymen may for some years prepare very interesting discourses, sermons agreeable to intelligent popular audiences. But whatever latitude their written creed may allow them, the mere accuracy and closeness of their thinking tend to confine them within "narrow pastures." Reverence and logic combine to limit for them the range of discussion and illustration, and after a few years, even devout hearers may sometimes recognize while the undevout may complain of repetition and deficient novelty in their sermons.

Mr. BEECHER has always, it would appear, kept himself admirably free from such restraints and limitations of speculation as those just indicated. At least, since he first became prominent in the public eye, neither Westminster Confession nor Saybrook Platform has ever exercised any controlling influence upon the march of his discourse. Such a statement conveys no adequate impression of Mr. BEECHER'S intellectual freedom. A foreign clergyman, some years ago, with the great Brooklyn preacher's published works before him, undertook to prepare, for a review, an account of his theological and ethical opinions, but soon came to the conclusion that his materials were not sufficient. It became evident to the reviewer that if Mr. BEECHER had given his theological and ethical views to the world in printed form, the volumes on hand did not contain them. Several years have since elapsed, and though the great preacher's published sermons have gone on multiplying, it would be no easier now than half a dozen years ago to give a consistent account of his theological tenets. In his discourses the most inconsistent theological tendencies appear in succession, or even close together, and it does not finally appear which one the preacher most favors. No doubt, such liberality of thought and independence of consistency give a preacher of Mr. BEECHER'S powers great advantage, both in novelty of presentation and in adapting his address to a great variety of minds and characters.

The latest illustration of the elasticity of the great preacher's logic and principles is his quasi indorsement of the Ohio women's crusade against the grogshops. In the movement he sees a moral tempest or hurricane destined to sweep away a terrible social evil which defies legislation. In it he also sees a good result of the agitation of the subject of woman's rights, as if that subject had not been agitated, the women would never have dared to act as they are doing. Mr. BEECHER also thinks the movement the result of "inspiration," an influence sufficient to produce the effect, one would think, without any previous agitation of woman's rights. But Mr. BEECHER further thinks it "fanatical," and fears that the movement will end like the burning of the prairies—consume the old grass and destroy many vermin, and then die out—preparing the way, he should have added, for a richer crop of whatever the ground produces. Consistent in inconsistency till the close, the great preacher at last said, "at present children are brought up not to touch, taste or handle; but suppose they were thrown into temptation, it was better that they should know how to drink than that they should be totally ignorant and go to guzzling." The entire address was an excellent illustration of the Brooklyn pastor's method of instructing the people.

LITTLE Delaware, which will next fall elect a Governor, Congressman, State Legislature and county officers, is beginning to gird up her loins right vigorously for the contest. Of course at this early period the end cannot, even approximately, be forecast, but the Republican leaders are more hopeful than ever. They believe the revulsion in popular sentiment still goes on, and that the Democratic power is broken. New Castle county is regarded as absolutely certain to give a large Republican majority; Kent will probably go the other way, and Sussex is set down as doubtful. Here will be the main battle ground, and no stone will be left unturned to cause the majority to cast in the ballot with the Republicans. It is already showing defection to the SAULSBURYS; and it is predicted that any candidate nominated in their interest will meet with inevitable defeat. An issue which will enter largely into the coming campaign, if it does not become the leading one, will be equal representation. Strange as it may seem, the State Legislature is not made up on a basis of representation according to population, but the same number of Senators and Representatives are allotted to each county. Thus, for instance, Wilmington, with a population more than seventeen times greater than some of the hundreds, is allowed but one representative, while they each receive one. This is gross injustice, and the Republican party is pledged to the change, its conventions for two years past having based their representation on this principle. Their triumph in the next election means the success of equal representation, and the bold and fearless manner in which they have espoused the principle should contribute largely to their success.

THE particular attention of the New York *Sun*, the *Tribune*, and the Philadelphia *Press* is invited to the recent development of corruption among Democrats at Harrisburg. If the parties accused were Republicans, those papers would be delighted beyond measure, and would spread all the facts at length before their readers, with glaring head-lines and editorial comments to match. The whole would also form the basis of repeated editorial remarks, and serve to point out the evident moral that the Republican party is too corrupt to be longer tolerated. The fact that the boot is now on the other leg, should not, however, keep those watchful guardians of the public morals from giving due publicity to the crime that has been committed. They cannot be expected to enter upon the task very heartily or cordially; but they can hardly shirk it altogether. They are especially reminded that both the culprits are Democrats; that the intrigue was carried on from a Democratic hotel; that the editor of the leading Democratic paper in the State went bail for the culprits, when arrested; and that the Democratic member of the House of Representatives, who was implicated, virtually confessed judgment against himself by resigning his place in time to prevent the expulsion that would have inevitably followed the exposures, when officially made. The whole subject furnishes abundant texts for a dozen Democratic homilies. We are waiting for them, patiently.

A FEW days ago we made brief allusion to the attempt of the Kentucky Democratic leaders to revive, in convention, the issues and antagonisms of the civil war, by declaring it a meritorious act of Democracy to have fought on the side of rebellion, and a Democratic duty to reward those who were so arrayed, by nominating a candidate for an important office, for the sole reason that he was wounded whilst fighting the battles of the "Lost Cause," and without any regard whatever as to his qualifications for the position. It appears that this action threatens to seriously disturb the party in that State. Ex-Governor BRAMLETTE has entered a vigorous protest against the nomination, and several other prominent members of the party, who were not in the rebel army, assert that they will not vote for the nominee, but will support any good man in opposition to him, without regard to party. We should be pleased to learn the views of the Pittsburgh *Dispatch* concerning this matter, closely related as it is to another important subject which our contemporary recently discussed with so much eloquence and emphasis.

STATE NEWS.

Clarion county has a "boss" mute society.

Bristol has raised $25,000 towards new water works.

There are forty-two insane persons in the Lehigh county almshouse.

"Detective" Clay is in jail at Clarion on charges of forgery, false pretense, &c.

Horses are being bought up in Somerset and Cambria counties for the Reading market.

Tuckerton, Berks county, has a freak of nature in the shape of a hairless Durham calf.

Eighty persons were baptised in the Methodist Episcopal church at Johnstown, on Sunday.

Rev. W. A. Fleming, pastor of the Presbyterian church, Johnstown, announces his intention to resign.

The new county which was to have been made out of portions of Berks, Chester and Lancaster, is a fizzle.

The Harrisburg Car Manufacturing Company's employees commenced working ten hours a day on Monday.

Rev. John F. Spaulding, Bishop of Colorado, left his old home in Erie, on Monday, for his new field of labor.

The Lycoming county bar had their seventh annual dinner at the Herdic House, Williamsport, on Saturday.

About all the ice houses in the Lehigh Valley are filled with tolerably good ice, and next summer's supply is assured.

The Poesna furnace, at New Castle, has been again put in full blast after repairs. The Shenango rolling mill will resume work this week.

The farmers of Westmoreland county have nearly completed plowing for corn, and are ready to attack the oats ground as soon as the fields become drier.

John Glass, Esq., of New Brighton, has filled the position of Justice of the Peace for thirty-four years. His tenure of office is not so brittle as his name.

The Lawrence *Guardian* says: It is reported that the Onondaga rolling mill and nail factory which has been in operation for the past three months will soon stop work.

The Waynesburg *Messenger* states the wheat in the ground throughout Greene county is very generally spoken of as presenting an unusually fine appearance for the season of the year.

Fourteen aged persons died in Philadelphia last week, namely: Eliza Rodden, aged 80; Mary Ryan, 80; Oliver Parry, 80; Elizabeth Lindsay, 81; Sarah Kinney, 82; Hanse M. H. Byerz, 82; Deborah J. Rorer, 83; Nancy Patterson, 86; Thomas Feregan, 87; Thomas Watson, 87; Mercy J. Cleaver, 88; Harriet Stokes, 88; Christian Gaul, 89; and Ann Rice, 90.

DELUSIONS OF DRINK.

No Benefit to be Derived from the Habitual Use of Any Liquor, Malt or Spirituous.

King Solomon has the credit of being the wisest man that ever lived; and he declared that he who is deceived by wine, the mocker, and strong drink, the raging, is not wise. The delusions of drink are as old as drink itself, and are as prevalent now as in Solomon's time. There are men who honestly believe that alcoholic drink is good for them; yet there is not one of them who would touch it except as a prescribed medicine if it were not for its pleasant taste. The delusion touching its healthfulness grows out of the desire to justify an appetite which may either be natural or acquired. If a man likes whisky or wine, he likes to think that it is good for him, and he will take some pains to prove that it is so, both to himself and others.

Now, alcohol is a pure stimulant. There is not so much nutriment in it as there is in a chip. It never added anything to the permanent forces of life, and never can add anything. Its momentary intensification of force is a permanent abstraction of force from the drinker's capital stock. All artificial excitants bring exhaustion. The physicians know this, and the simplest man's reason is quite capable of comprehending it. If any man supposes that the daily drink, even in small quantities, is conducive to his health, he is deluded. If he possess a sluggish temperament, he may be able to carry his burden without much apparent harm, but burden it is, and burden it will always be.

After a man has continued moderate drinking long enough, it will become a change—a demand for more drink. The old quantity does not suffice. The powers which have been insensibly undermined, clamor, under the pressure of business, for increased stimulation. It is applied, and the machine starts off grandly; the man feels strong, his form grows portly, and he works under constant pressure. Now he is in a condition of great danger, but the delusion is upon him that he is in no danger at all. At last, however, drink begins to take the place of food. His appetite grows feeble and fitful. He lives on his drink, and, of course, there is but one end to this—viz: death! It may come suddenly, through the collapse of all his powers, or through paralysis, or it may come slowly through atrophy and emaciation. His friends see that he is killing himself, but he cannot see it at all. He walks in a delusion from his early manhood to his death.

A few weeks ago one of our city physicians publicly read a paper on the drinking habits of women. It was a thoughtful paper, based on a competent knowledge of facts. It ought to have been of great use to those women of the city who are exposed to the danger it portrayed, and especially to those who have acquired the habits it condemned. Soon afterward there appeared in the columns of a daily paper a protest from a writer who ought to be a good deal more intelligent than he is, against the doctor's conclusions. The health physique of the beer-drinking Englishwoman were placed over against the health and phisique of the water-drinking American women, to the disadvantage of the latter. The conclusion was drawn that since Sir Henry Thompson, one of the most eminent medical men in England—a man notoriously beyond the reach of any purely Christian considerations—declared against the beer-drinking of England on strictly sanitary grounds. Our litterateur declares that the Englishwoman can outwalk her American sister. That she generally outlives her in a way of life when the task is undertaken. The typical Englishwomen who has stood by the beer diet until she is more than forty years old, is too fat to walk anywhere easily out of doors, or gracefully within.

During our late civil war this matter of drinking for health's sake was thoroughly tested. The shock of battle once in observation was acquired that ought to have lasted for a century. Again and again, thousands and thousands of times, was it proved that the man who drank moderately was the first to fall. He endured more, he fought better, he came out of the war healthier than the man who drank. Nothing is more easily demonstrable than that the use of alcohol after battle was, among officers and men alike, was an unmitigated curse to them. It disturbed the brains and vitiated the blood of the officers, and debilitated and demoralized the men. Meanwhile the time the delusion among officers and men was, that there were both comfort and help in whisky.

The delusions of drink are numberless, but there is one of them which stands in the way of reform so decidedly that it calls for decided treatment. We allude to the delusion that it is a nice thing to drink nice liquors or wines at one's home, to offer them to one's friends, and to make them minister to good fellowship at every social gathering. We can see no different thing to drink bad liquor, in bad places, and in large quantities. A man full of good wine feels that he has a right to look with contempt upon those stickers for the cheap and bad whisky. It is not a long time since the election of a professor in a British university was opposed solely on the ground that he neither drank wine nor offered it to his friends; and when, by a small majority, his election was effected, the other professors decided not to recognize him socially. There are thus two men who have these stickers for wine defects, viz: the man who gets drunk on bad liquor, and the man who drinks no liquor at all. Indeed, they regard the latter with a hatred or contempt for which there is not the excuse the drunkard. The absolute animosity with which many men in society regard one who is conscientiously opposed to wine in any form is only spring from a delusion in regard to the real nature of their own habits. The sensitiveness of these people on this subject, however, shows that it is a delusion of passion which they are the victims. They claim to be on the side of temperance. They deprecate drunkenness, and really don't see what is to be done about it, but they wish that men would be more rational in their enjoyment of the good things of the world, etc., etc., but their eyes seem blind to the fact that the drunk is in the way of all reform. The horrible drunkenness of the larger cities of Great Britain, with which no hell that America holds can compare for a hundredth part, is due to the fact that the drinking habits of the English clergy and the English gentry are reformed. With eleven-twelfths of the British clergy wine drinkers, and with the drink-tabooed in society and social drinking the fashion in all the high life of the realm, the workman will stand by his gin, brutality will reign in its own chosen centers, and those centers will continue to increasingly become what, to a frightful extent, they already are—festering sores upon the body social, and stenches in the nostrils of the world.

As to habits, neither of Great Britain nor America, will be improved until men of influence in every walk of life are willing to dispense with their drinking customs. Hundreds of thousands of lives become annually the drunkard's grave every year. There is nothing in sanitary considerations as they relate to the moderate drinker, and surely nothing in the pleasures of the moderate drinker, to mitigate this curse. It is all a delusion. The water-drinker is the healthy man, and the happy man. Spirits, wine, beer, alcoholic beverages of all sorts are a burden and a bane, and there is no place where a good man can stand unshadowed by a fatal delusion, except upon the safe ground of total abstinence. Until that ground is taken, and held, by good men everywhere, there can be no temperance reform. The wine drinkers of England and America have the whisky drinkers in their keeping. What do they propose to do with them?—*Dr. J. G. Holland, Scribner's for March.*

A STRANGE DILEMMA.

How a Preacher Lost the Building Funds of His Church.

[From the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin.]

Last summer the Methodist church at Great Bend, Pa., was burned down. The congregation was poor, but having a lot on which to build, they determined to appeal to the charitable throughout the land for the funds to erect another place of worship. Their pastor was accordingly sent out through the Lackawaxen Valley to state their case and solicit subscriptions. He succeeded well, and went to Jersey City to ask the aid of certain charitable parties there. He raised about five hundred dollars. His last day in the city, he was walking along Broadway, when a man came up to him and addressed him angrily, with—

"See here, now I must have the amount of that bill to-day. I can't wait any longer!"

The pastor was of course astounded, but replied, "Bill! What bill?"

"The bill for that hardware. It's been standing for nearly two years."

The reverend gentleman had now recovered himself, and saw that the man had made a mistake. He had taken him for another person. The minister then informed the irate creditor that he was not the man that owed the bill; that he was Rev. Mr.—, of Great Bend, Pennsylvania, and was out raising money in aid of his church, which had been burned down. The man was very sorry, and, apologized profoundly, and had the matter a good-day. In a few minutes afterward, a tap on the shoulder of the latter caused him to look up, and there was the mistakened creditor again. He said that in the confusion of his first meeting, when he was made aware of the identity of the reverend gentleman, it had not occurred to him that he had once the pleasure of hearing him preach, having occasion to remain in Great Bend over Sunday, and now recognized him. The stranger also said that he would like to be in the church in its advertising. He was on his way to collect a bill of a man amounting to eighty-four dollars, and if the preacher would go with him, he should half defray the amount. To this the shepherd readily consented. The two walked a long way and turned into a small street. They went up into the fourth story of a building, and into a room where a man was writing at a desk. "Halloo!" he said, "you've come after that money, have you? Let's see—eighty-four dollars, wasn't it?" Yes, it was eighty-four dollars. The gentleman at the desk handed the collector a one hundred dollar bill. He could not change it, but turned to the minister and said, "Here, you're to have half of this, can you give the gentleman seventeen dollars?" With a beaming smile the preacher handed the desired sum. Then it was that he found he had fallen into the hands of Philistines. The man who had called on, now coolly informed him that he must disgorge all the money he had about him, or he would never go out there alive. The gentleman proceeded to do so, compelled to hand over every cent he had collected, and was then kicked down stairs. He took the first train for home, where his anxious and delighted flock awaited him—delighted because he had kept them informed as to his success. But he had nothing for them but the above sad story. He did not known the name of the street he was taken to, nor in what part of the city it was located. The building of the church had progressed rapidly, but work stopped at once. And now it is said the contractor is moving to have the property sold to obtain the pay due him.

WHISKY DRINKING AND CRIME.

A Paper from the Warden of the Ohio Penitentiary on the Influence of Whisky Drinking on Crime.

Mr. BURT, Warden of the Ohio Penitentiary, asserted, in a speech in Columbus, a few nights ago, that of "the 945 prisoners who were that night confined in the penitentiary, not less than 600 were there because of intemperance, or through the influence of intoxicating liquors." This drew out a card from State Senator Marx, in which he claimed to show a discrepancy between the statement quoted above and those contained in Mr. Burt's annual reports. The latter gentleman published the following reply in the *State Journal* of the 23d instant:

This, Mr. Editor, was no "incautious statement," but one made in deliberate, sober earnest, and as the result of forty years of observation, and nearly five years experience as Warden of the Penitentiary. Now it is by any means an "exaggeration" of the facts in the case.

The discrepancies which the Hon. Senator finds between my statement and my official reports, are deduced from the table designating the "crimes of convicts received during the year," and are based upon the assumption that though crimes against person may be sometimes the result of intoxication, yet it is not to be supposed that this is the case as regards crimes against property, but that on the contrary, the very idea that one could be drunk, is precluded. And, inasmuch as crimes against property largely exceed in number those against person, and by a still further series of deductions, the honorable Senator comes to the grave conclusion that in but comparatively few instances has liquor anything to do with the commission of crime.

If this were true, it would certainly present the question in a very different light. But what are the facts? A drunken "bummer," who is the liquor seller knows is out of money, and therefore can get no more drinks, gets terribly "dry." At night, after the shop is closed, he breaks through a back window, and steals a jug of whisky, goes into the nearest stable or shed; gets drunk, and lies down; is found there the next morning asleep; is arrested, convicted of burglary, and sent to the penitentiary. It was a crime against property. Had liquor nothing to do with it? Again, a fellow in a similar condition cannot find a whisky shop that he can get into, and get the long drink he wants; but he does get into some other establishment, and takes the change from the money drawer, or some article of property that he can pawn for a little money. And this procure the means of gratifying his appetite; and similar results follow. One of your jovial fellows, that takes his "spree," but has not as yet got quite so low down as the others, meets an old comrade, that he has not seen for a long time, and must needs "show him around." He goes to a livery stable, hires a horse and buggy, to take a ride, starts out, gets on a "tear," oversays his time, is pursued, found the next day at some cross roads, or country village, drunk, and it may be offering to sell the horse and buggy; is arrested, convicted of horse stealing, and sent to the penitentiary. Another is on a "spree," has spent all of his money, and must have more, forges the name of his employer to an order for ten dollars, in order to raise means to continue his revel; is arrested and sent to the penitentiary. These are all crimes against property. Had liquor nothing to do with them?

These, Mr. Editor, are not *imaginary cases*, but each is substantially the history of men now in the penitentiary. And I am safe in saying that similar cases may be numbered at least by the score.

An examination of our records as to the criminal habits of those who come to the penitentiary, shows the following as the result: Out of 1,495 men (women not included) who have been received into the prison since it has been in the present building, 946 were intemperate, 118 moderate drinkers, and 50 beer drinkers, leaving 381 who claimed to be temperate. And here permit to say, that the idea that "criminals are made drunk" as the result of their crimes, for offenses by throwing the blame on whisky," is decidedly a novel one. Just the opposite is the truth of the matter. Human nature is the same in man, under the garb of convicted of crimes, that it was before. And about the last thing that a man is willing to admit ever, is the fact that he is a drunkard. This disposition is an additional security to the criminature. The prevailing dullness in house building, especially in the outskirts of cities, must be largely attributed to the existing unusual uncertainty as to the financial future, and partly to the other two causes which have been assigned for it—strikes and speculative overbuilding. As to the latter matter the cyclops of houses, if there be any, in the vicinity of New York at least, consists in high-priced places. There is a constant and unsupplied demand, both in New York and Brooklyn, for moderate priced private rents, and even now builders and capitalists will find it to their advantage to construct them.

The lack of enterprise is not to be accounted for any want of substantial prosperity throughout the country. The great crops of both the West and South are being well sold, our exports continue upon a healthy scale, while our imports are neither shrunken to the least proportions which they reached just after the panic, nor have they risen to the old extravagant figures. Our efforts at economy are apparent from the return of the Lateral Railroad in this month, by which it appeared that while the value of goods imported was very much less than during the corresponding week last year, the number of packages of goods was larger, useful rather than expensive goods being sought for. Economical notions on the subject of dress have gained ground since the panic. The healthy nature of trade is also evident from the comparatively large amount of goods which goes into consumption—importers mean to meet the requirements of business rather than speculate upon the future by filling the bonded warehouses.

Indeed, prudence characterizes our whole business just now. The volume of general trade is a fair average one, but as yet it hardly comes up to the expectations which had been entertained of the spring trade, although the activity of the latter may only be temporarily delayed. That this is so may fairly be argued from the fact that the increased and increasing revenues of the government must be owing to the increase of trade. Railroad managers are cautious, and do not know just what effect the fact that large numbers of persons were thrown out of employment after the panic will have upon consumption. They keep in large purchases made at cheap prices just after that time, out-of-town merchants have, until recently bought sparingly, stocks are low, and there should not be any serious doubt as to the ability of the people to consume. The only remaining factor in the question is the financial agitation in Congress. Business men want to know whether the extent of is to be inflated, and whether there is to be additional taxation. It is clear enough that it is impossible, at present, to operate understandingly in tea, coffee, tobacco, spirits, or any other article that may be selected for additional taxation. An addition to the currency would also unsettle values. These questions should be settled as soon as possible in the interest of the business community.

Experiments With Valonia.

Two oak sole leather tanning firms of Philadelphia are using valonia for their last layer, and state that they are very well satisfied with the result. The nut for this purpose is ground in a querciron mill. A member of one of the firms referred to says that this material makes a mellow, soft leather, of fine color, whereas bark liquor, run up to anything near such strength, would render the stock harsh in substance as well as discolor it.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, February 24, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. McClure offered a supplement to the Election law.

Mr. Graham asked and obtained the use of the chamber to-morrow evening for the committee appointed by the colleges of the State to address the Assembly in reference to relieving them from taxation.

The bill fixing the compensation of members was discussed the rest of the morning hour.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer presented a lengthy petition in favor of appointing Coal Commissioners in Western Pennsylvania, and then called up and passed the act.

Mr. McCormick called up the law of entails, and had the first section stricken out, and the bill passed.

Mr. Ramsey called up the Judicial Salary bill.

Mr. McCormick gave notice that he would oppose the new Judicial Apportionment bill, which gives Indiana, Washington and other counties separate judges, as long as the members from those counties oppose a decent salary for the city judges. This seemed to bring the stock shavers to a realizing sense, and the bill went over on third reading.

Mr. Hays moved to postpone the bill taxing private corporations. Agreed to.

Mr. Gerwig presented the petition of 4,000 citizens for the repeal of Local Option.

Mr. Laidley presented a similar one.

Mr. Williams, of Clarion, a similar one.

Mr. Mitchell called up the Constitutional Advertising bill, and offered a lengthy amendment.

Mr. Webb amended by allowing $200 for weekly and $100 for all daily papers. Not agreed to and the bill was laid over.

Mr. Brockway offered a joint resolution requesting President Grant to give a new trial to Fitz John Porter.

Mr. Myer called up the act taxing anthracite coal, when an effort was made to include bituminous coal. This brought the Allegheny delegation to their feet, and Mr. McCormick out of the chair. They made it right lively for a while, and succeeded in defeating the amendment.

HARRISBURG, February 25, 1874.

SENATE.

Bills in place were read as follows:

Mr. Albright, An act providing that when a legal holiday falls on Sunday that notes may be protested on the Saturday preceding or the Monday following.

Mr. Alexander, Relating to cohabitation and repute.

Mr. Humphreys, Preventing of stay of execution on judgments for wages when under one hundred and fifty dollars.

The act limiting the time within which inquisitions of lunacy or habitual drunkenness may be traversed, passed finally; also the act dividing the Eighth normal school district.

The bill regulating the compensation of members came up and was under discussion when the order of the day was called and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer called up the bill providing for contracting for supplies.

Mr. Hays, For the collection of taxes.

Mr. Ohristy, For the election of Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Gerwig, For election expenses.

Mr. Christy's bill providing the manner of increasing incorporated indebtedness, passed first reading.

Mr. Myer offered a resolution to hear the college presidents on the tax question.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, On change of venue.

A number of appropriation bills already reported passed first reading.

Mr. Newmyer, when the resolution requesting our Congressional delegation to vote for the military bill came up, thought they knew enough over in Washington to take care of themselves. The resolution was not voted on.

The scraper bill came up and then went down suddenly, being killed.

Mr. Allison called up the bill regulating railroad crossings.

Mr. Wolfe, Giving a bounty on fox scalps.

The presidents of the various colleges of the State are here to argue the tax clause before the Committee on Education. President George P. Hays, of Washington and Jefferson College, and Dr. Wood, of your University, are among the number.

A heavy snow fell here to-day.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 25, 1874.

The House had a session to-day, but did nothing. There was a very large attendance, everybody anticipating that the committee on the Democratic black-mailing operation on the banks would report, and recommend the expulsion of William H. Dimmick, the Democratic member from Wayne; but the committee had not concluded its investigation, and not being ready to report, Dimmick got the advantage of them by sending in his resignation. This presented the only other solution for his expulsion, but will not prevent the presentation of the damning testimony in the case. The evidence is clear and conclusive—so clear that Dimmick would not wait for its appearance. Like Captain Scott's coon, he came down promptly before he was shot at. As soon as the resignation was received the House adjourned.

The headquarters of this black-mailing conspiracy was the Bolton House, and the ball for the culprits, when arrested, was B. F. Meyer, the editor of the *Patriot*. These fellows all stick together, you see.

The bankers of this city, it seems, some time since issued a genuine circular urging concerted action to secure a bill limiting the rate of interest laws. The black-mailers got hold of this, and getting up a circular of their own, inclosed it along with the genuine to the several banks of the State, asking them to send a draft for one fourth of one per cent. on their capital, to pay the expenses of securing the repeal. The bogus circular was signed by fictitious names, and the letters sent to the fictitious address were taken to the Bolton House, where Dimmick and Kreiter handled them. Kreiter, of course, denies having got any of the money, and says he only directed the letters that were sent out; but the evidence shows conclusively that Dimmick and Kreiter were the parties represented by the fictitious names in the circulars.

The scheme was a cunning one, and was helped by the genuine circular, of which the forged one seemed the legitimate sequence. If it had not been discovered, the schemers would have netted a very considerable sum; but the banks, generally, were very cautious in responding to the demand made on them, and this caution led to its discovery.

The Democrats are, as a matter of course, very much mortified at the developments, and it is to their credit that they have done all they could to unearth the rascality. Mr. Orvis, on the House Committee of Investigation, has worked as hard as the rest to expose it.

In the Senate a night session was held, and nearly all the bills on its calendar were disposed of. The Judicial Apportionment bill was passed finally—yeas 20, nays 4—the latter being Collins, McSherry, White and Yerkes. The bill now goes to the House.

Mr. Wallace called up his bill to provide for the manner of increasing the capital stock and indebtedness of corporations, and the bill passed second reading.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, being absent, the bill for the organization and regulation of insurance companies was not called up, and will not be, until his return. He is gone to Cassville, to attend the investigation of the Guss scandal. Guss will put in the testimony of a lot of negative witnesses, who do not know the charges to be true; but the evidence against him is too plain and clear to be set aside.

The following bills passed first reading:

No. 47—An act to provide for the submission of civil cases to the decision of the court and to dispense with trial by jury. It authorizes parties to agree to submit their cases to the court,

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENTS

VALUATIONS OF 1873 AND 1874 CONTRASTED.

Total Values in the Several Districts of the County.

Percentage of Increase Over Assessments of 1873.

An Interesting Tabular Statement.

We are indebted to Augustus Beckert, Esq., County Commissioner for the following carefully prepared statement of the triennial assessments for 1874, in the several wards, boroughs and townships throughout the county. The valuations for 1873 are given by way of comparison, and the increase in each district, as well as the rate per cent. of increase in each. The last column of figures shows the total valuations as revised, and these are the valuations upon which the tax will be levied. It will be observed that the values returned by the assessors, in the city of Pittsburgh, have mostly been accepted as correct. The only cases in which the figures have been revised are the First, Sixth, Seventh, Eleventh, Seventeenth, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-seventh and Thirty-fifth. In Allegheny the returns were not so satisfactory, and the only wards *not* revised were the Second and Tenth. Very little change was made in the boroughs, but the township assessments were in many instances extremely low, and were revised and increased by the Commissioners.

The valuations in the city of Pittsburgh have been increased from $22,062,949 in 1873, to $176,694,859. The lowest per cent. of increase in this city is 271, for the Ninth ward; and the highest 1791, for the Nineteenth ward.

In Allegheny, the increase over the assessment of last year has been $41,270,035—or $22,894,185 for 1874, against $9,565,484 in 1873. The lowest per cent. is in the Eighth ward, 239; and the highest in the Tenth ward, 1,067.

In the boroughs, the figures have been raised from $1,421,715, to $16,846,653; and in the township from $16,575,118, to $87,568,196.

The increase made by the Commissioners, as a Board of Revision, over the amounts returned by the Assessors, is as follows:

Pittsburgh	$ 6,564,684
Allegheny	12,038,656
Boroughs	1,424,965
Townships	46,598,159
Total	$64,145,774
Return by Assessors	$86,359,554
Total revised value	$202,504,328

There is but one district not returned—the Thirty-seventh ward. This ward was taken from Wilkins township, and as it did not come under the control of the city until the first of January last, the assessors did not begin their work until after that date and have not yet completed their assessments. Of the old valuation of Wilkins township, ($345,490,) about $200,000 were included in the new ward, which should be taken into account in estimating the increase and the per centage in Wilkins township.

The percentage column furnishes a very interesting study. On the presumption that the new valuations are as nearly correct as they can be made, the inequalities of the old become apparent. The increase varies all the way from 21 per cent. in Neville township to 1,791 per cent. in the Nineteenth ward. In what are known as the old wards of the city, with two or three exceptions, the increase is not more than half as large as in the "rural wards." From the Eighteenth to the Twenty-third ward, inclusive, the increase is larger than in any other part of the city.

As has been stated recently in our columns, the mileage for county purposes is not to be increased, so that the increased valuation will not change the aggregate amount of taxes to be collected. Those who have been assessed at disproportionately high rates, however, will have a little more to pay; while others will get off with a little less.

Following are the figures:

PITTSBURGH

WARDS.	Valuation 1873.	Valuation 1874.	Increased Valuation.	Increased Per Cent.	Total Value 1874.
1st	1,550,950	7,000,215	5,503,265	337	8,884,016
2d	1,429,615	7,200,000	6,440,385	449	15,000,000
3d	1,305,145	6,000,000	4,694,855	359	7,500,000
4th	1,852,090	10,350,000	8,497,910	459	10,350,000
5th	854,440	4,000,000	3,145,560	368	4,000,000
6th	798,439	4,226,333	3,427,894	431	5,282,941
7th	1,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
8th	603,686	3,403,926	2,797,343	466	3,400,926
9th	1,194,466	5,000,000	3,805,534	318	5,000,000
10th	604,918	2,604,964	1,960,046	325	2,604,964
11th	720,487	3,000,000	2,279,513	316	3,000,000
12th	1,179,982	10,904,956	9,924,974	841	10,904,956
13th	1,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
14th	572,116	8,686,386	7,508,269	1,312	8,686,386
15th	514,139	4,000,000	3,485,861	678	4,000,000
16th	500,000	4,262,000	3,812,000	762	4,262,000
17th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
18th	393,710	4,685,211	4,291,611	1,089	4,685,211
19th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
20th	522,949	9,670,350	9,147,401	1,749	9,670,350
21st	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
22d	685,781	7,950,942	7,265,161	1,059	7,950,942
23d	342,848	3,993,961	3,651,113	1,065	3,993,961
24th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
25th	449,474	4,448,125	3,998,651	774	4,448,125
26th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
27th	359,000	1,450,431	1,091,431	304	1,450,000
28th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
29th	491,779	2,042,855	1,551,076	315	2,042,855
30th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
31st	100,327	850,000	749,488	747	849,815
32d	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
33d	1,000,000	1,016,000	16,000	370	1,016,000
34th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
35th	115,620	698,329	582,709	503	698,329
36th	1,000,000	1,170,000	170,000	17	1,170,000
Total	29,663,949	170,830,156	147,166,206		176,694,859

ALLEGHENY

WARDS.					
1st	1,387,504	6,331,141	4,943,637	356	8,230,483
2d	1,651,077	9,956,912	8,305,835	503	9,956,912
3d	1,444,650	6,000,000	4,555,350	315	6,000,000
4th	1,823,388	9,630,000	6,797,612	373	11,207,257
5th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
6th	846,979	4,436,050	3,589,071	424	5,981,870
7th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
8th	239,952	1,110,988	870,036	362	1,797,813
9th	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
10th	167,620	1,907,540	1,739,920	1037	1,907,540
11th	195,043	1,000,000	804,957	412	1,000,000
Total	9,965,484	50,830,319	41,270,035		62,894,185

BOROUGHS.

McKeesport	109,284	3,273,496	560,088	93	3,273,496
Braddocks	119,284	1,078,962	959,678	804	1,078,962
Elizabeth	121,292	650,000	415,708	342	1,065,000
Sewickley	139,000	1,000,000	861,000	619	1,000,000
Sharpsburg	267,262	1,737,200	1,469,938	549	1,737,200
W. Elizabeth	74,961	300,000	225,039	300	300,000
Turtle Creek	85,707	165,69[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	826,450
Millvale	94,694	1,000,000	905,306	956	1,000,000
Bellevue	77,952	1,021,118	943,166	1210	1,021,118
Chartiers	71,077	1,000,000	928,923	1307	1,000,000
Mansfield	71,203	432,424	361,221	507	612,424
Verona	53,000	1,000,000	947,000	1787	1,000,000
Etna	174,281	1,446,263	1,272,72[illegible]	730	1,446,263
Total	1,421,715	14,422,360	12,576,873		15,846,668

TOWNSHIPS.

Lot	148,044	1,200,417	1,052,373	710	2,200,000
Kilbuck	189,342	2,177,305	1,987,963	1041	2,177,305
Franklin	310,361	2,000,000	1,689,639	544	3,000,000
Penn	286,910	2,700,000	2,413,090	841	3,000,000
Elizabeth	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Mifflin	581,694	3,998,800	3,797,343	653	4,998,800
Versailles	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Moon	294,957	841,297	546,340	185	1,048,941
Franklin	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Baldwin	907,600	3,127,607	2,220,007	763	4,682,475
Ross	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
McCandless	153,668	1,868,072	1,714,404	1116	1,868,072
East Deer	1,000,000	1,147,000	147,000	14	1,147,000
C. Pt. Clair	324,792	477,572	252,780	112	2,150,421
N. Fayette	307,500	1,000,000	692,500	225	1,000,000
Neville	90,000	108,000	18,000	21	360,000
Shaler	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	100	2,000,000
Lawrenceville	79,314	1,446,011	1,366,697	1723	861,997
Collins	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Fat oo	339,531	1,346,970	1,160,344	464	1,500,870
N. Versailles	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
S. Versailles	304,292	490,952	186,660	61	1,961,806
Jefferson	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Charlters	1,000,000	1,706,345	1,423,333	142	3,512,000
Findley	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
Indiana	107,393	581,607	474,944	441	872,496
Reserve	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Hampton	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Pine	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
West Deer	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	100	2,000,000
Indiana	1,000,000	1,804,000	1,402,000	402	1,804,000
O'Hara Plat	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
S. Fayette	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,182,000	1182	1,000,000
Sewickley	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	100	2,000,000
Crescent	42,781	122,784	80,003	187	308,964
Richland	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
Union	191,287	902,348	710,456	361	1,353,514
Hampton	96,192	1,000,000	903,808	939	1,000,000
S. otf	273,177	1,421,401	1,147,824	420	2,421,561
Marshall	44,000	1,000,000	956,000	2172	1,000,000
Harrison	1,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	300	4,000,000
Lincoln	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	100	2,000,000
Forward	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
Snow	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	400	5,000,000
Total	16,575,118	81,070,402	38,943,007		87,568,196

RECAPITULATION.

	1873.	1874.	Increased Valuation.	Total Rev'd
Pittsburgh	22,062,949	170,030,156	147,166,206	176,694,859
Allegheny	9,965,484	50,830,319	41,270,035	62,894,185
Boroughs	1,421,715	14,422,360	12,576,873	15,846,668
Townships	16,575,118	81,070,402	38,943,007	87,568,196
Total	44,026,266	316,353,237	239,956,121	342,504,328

THE NATION TRUST COMPANY.

The Receiver Makes a Statement to the Court—Power to Enforce Settlements.

Mr. Bailey, Receiver in the case of the City Controller vs. The Nation Trust Company, on Saturday, filed the following report:

In the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny county. R. J. McGowan vs. Robert Dickson and others, doing business as the Nation Trust Company. In Equity.

The petition of John H. Bailey, Receiver in said case, respectfully represents:

That on the 26th day of November, 1873, he was duly appointed by the court, Receiver of the Nation-al Trust Company, also known as the Nation Trust Company, and having been first duly qualified, assumed the duties of his appointment; that the principal part of the assets consist of notes, bills and open accounts of individuals, corporations and firms; that in many cases mortgages have been due the company upon notes settled and otherwise for nearly six years, and that actions thereon should be instituted; that in many cases, from the neglect and refusal of the debtor to pay the sums due by them, legal proceedings have been needed to; that many accounts and assets of the company are in dispute; that other negotiable paper and other securities have come into possession of the petitioner as Receiver, in some instances, the debtors allege that they have paid the same, and in others they are claimed not to be the property of the company, but to have been left for collection only, and in cases where large balances appear due from certain debtors, they claim that the amounts have been paid in whole or in part, and in some cases overpaid, and in others that large offsets are due the debtors for deposits made and notes and bills given to the company for which allowance has not been properly made.

Your petitioner further represents that in some of the instances stated, he has reason to believe that the allegations of the parties are true, and that the credits are due the seeming debtors; that they do not appear upon the books of the Company, but that owing to the imperfect manner in which in some cases the books and records of the Company have been kept, it is impossible for your petitioner to adjust and determine the controversies which have arisen and may arise without resorting to legal proceedings; that in many cases in the judgment of your petitioner, it would involve useless expense and unnecessary delay to resort to the Courts—many actions at law or suits in equity to adjust the questions, and that it would be greatly to the interest of all parties concerned that the controversies should be submitted to arbitration by consent of the petitioner and alleged debtors, and further, that it is the desire of the parties to the cause and of the creditors of the said company that the settlement of the affairs of the company shall be made as speedily as possible, and that it is by request of such parties interested, that your petitioner has been induced to seek the powers herein prayed for.

Your petitioner therefore prays your Honors to order, adjudge and decree that he or Receiver of said company shall institute such action or actions, suit or suits, as may seem to him necessary and proper to enforce collection of all claims and moneys appearing to be due to said company and in cases where the parties may assent thereto, and the said receiver shall consider such course the best for the interest of all concerned, he may submit the matter in controversy to one or more arbitrators with power to agree that such reference shall be without exception or appeal, and that such actions, suits and arbitrations, shall be instituted in the name of the Nation Trust Company for the use of said Receiver.

JOHN H. BAILEY, Receiver.

The report was received and the prayer of the petitioner granted by the Court.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to the Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Following is the list of patents issued from the United States Patent office to citizens of the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending February 12, 1874, and furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., counsellors at law and solicitors for American and foreign patents, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Securing Cap Plates to Lock-Cases—Barthel Erbe, Pittsburgh, Application filed December 4, 1873.

Car-Brake—George Westinghouse Jr., Pittsburgh, Application filed December 27, 1873.

Wood-Screw Heater—John C. Frazier, West Alexander, Application filed August 5, 1873.

Well-Tube Clamp—Ephraim Shaw and Joseph H. Beatty, Carr Farm, Application filed November 1, 1873.

Device for Detaching Horses—Israel L. Landis, Lancaster.—Case D. Application filed January 2, 1874.

Piston-Packing—Andrew J. Isler, Brownsville. Application filed January 5, 1874.

Mail-Bag Catch—Michael White, Towanda, assignor of one-half his right to John M. Rahm, same place. Application filed December 26, 1873.

Car Starter—David Warren, Gettysburg. Application filed December 11, 1873.

Machine for Dressing Slate Frames—Thomas W. Parry, Slatington. Application filed October 11, 1873.

Telegraph Insulator—Peter Eby, Salisbury township, near Kinzer's Pastoffice, Lancaster county. Application filed August 5, 1873.

Portable Caisson for Repairing Vessels—James Brown, Chester. Application filed December 10, 1873.

Car-Coupler—William Bowman, Stoystown. Application filed October 28, 1873.

Grate—Joseph D. Slichter, Reading. Application filed December 16, 1873.

OHIO.

Safety Car—J. T. Worley, Cleveland.

Feed-Water Heater for Steam Fire Engines—J. Vanderelda, Cleveland.

Bias Marking Gage and Ruler—E Church, Cleveland.

Air Brake for Railroad Cars—M. Champion, Cleveland.

Head Block for Vehicle—P. M. Guthes, Galena.

Wagon Brake—R. Brown and W. M. Groze, Wooster.

Bobbin Holder for Sewing Machines—R. T. Gillespie, Millport.

Device for Promoting Combustion in Furnaces—D. T. Casement, Painesville.

Carpet Fastener—G. Gerardin, Galion.

Nut Lock—W. M. Spacht, Dunkirk.

Feed Regulator—Joseph Zaiser.

Furnace for Steam Boilers—D. T. Casement, Painesville.

Lifting Jack—J. T. Guthrie, Leesburg.

Window Sash—H. C. Burk, New Schaefferland.

Double Acting Force Pump—D. F. Casey, Harrisonville.

Manufacture of Steel—Thos. Brooks, Canton.

RE ISSUES.

Top-Prop Block—Sarah L. and Beader and Simon Berry, Urbana.

Mechanical Movement for Operating Throttle-Valves—E. Nicholson, Cleveland.

COMMON PLEAS JURYMEN.

List of Jurors For the Ensuing Term.

Following is a list of the jurymen drawn for the approaching term of the Common Pleas Court:

Third Monday, March, 1874.—Christ Kust, carpenter; Joseph Hays, carpenter; William Warner, carpenter; Henry Winters, glass blower; Austin Clark, carpenter; Alex. Vodgil, merchant; Samuel Dean, farmer; Arthur Flanigan, clerk; Wm. Mosnikin, farmer; Jno. Thompson, farmer; Daniel Mcdurk, real estate agent; Henry Bongher, chair maker; Daniel H. Montgomery, blacksmith; Robert McCoy, farmer; Thomas J. Barbour, merchant; Samuel Stevenson, farmer; Jas. Trimble, farmer; Jacob David L. Dickson, farmer; Jno Schmidt, gent; John Hamilton, farmer; A. A. Carlings, gent; James Kelly, farmer; Hunter Crane, gent; John K. Brown, confectioner; Antonny Galvin, laborer; J. N. Courtney, gent; Jacob Beckenstein, gent; Thos. D. Sweets, gent; A. D. Burns farmer; Patrick Sullivan, storekeeper; James Sullivan, gent; John Hirsew, hotel keeper; H. S. Borie, gent; John Martin, driver; Charles Wall, plumber; John Schneidinger, tailor; John Martin, brass finisher; Wm. Bowers, farmer; Patterson Mcford, farmer; Wm. Totso., mechanic; Jno. King, B. B.; Jno. A. Thomas, Dorsing, farmer; M. Rice, plasterer; Robert Riendor, moulder; John Aiken, painter; John Logan, iron dealer; Fred. Schwing, gent; Anthony Gollner, farmer; W. S. Herriott, farmer; Emanuel Alter, farmer; Andrew Gutheyer, merchant; Joseph Smith, gent; Robert Hunter, driver; Roenezer Brayton, gardener; Peter Keli, merchant; Hon. John Brown, farmer; Thomas Park, farmer; Samuel W. Gazier, superintendent; Robert Hopkins, minister; Wm. Smith, gent.

Fifth Monday, March, 1874.—Jno. Hammett, carpenter; Wilson Henry, farmer; John Q. Workman, wagon maker; F. H. Kennedy, merchant; John Kuler, stone mason; Jas. Coyle, merchant; James Condon, gent; Thomas Park, farmer; Samuel W. Winbow, farmer; George Wilson, carpenter; Samuel Hastings, carpenter; Andrew McQuarters, saw pecker; Henry Hammett, carpenter; Jacob Peter Galligan, drayman; Samuel O'Brien, carpenter, John W. Robinson, clerk; Col. Wm. B. Neefer, gent; Abram Wheeler, carpenter; Samuel Hamilton, carpenter; John Clark, carpenter; George Pattin, miner; Wm. Sober, gent; Alexander Brierly, paper hanger; James McGrain, cigar mak-er; Arthur Rodgers, cigar dealer; George Bettridge, boat builder; Samuel Cooper, gent; Wm. Williams, Hood, farmer; Edward Evans, gent; G. Lang, shoemaker; Alex. Gluntz, carpenter; Henry Hoffman, merchant; Valentine Hoffman, merchant; Jas. Stein, coal dealer; John Brown, moulder; William Mcgrogan, gent; Jacob Montgomery, farmer; Jonathan Kane, baker; Patrick McCabe, contractor; Cash Gleason, gent; Jacob Glover, gent; Thomas O'Connor, policeman; James B. Lyon, glass manufacturer; Wm Smith, Ioba co dealer; Rudolph Feerbrink, saloon keeper; Jno. Kasper, gent; John Bailey, manufacturer; Stanley Morehead, carpenter; John Chalmers, carpenter; Henry Hoffman, gent; David Richey, gent; A. Brehin, merchant; C. C. Bedell, banker; Huston Loyd (colored), dyer; Jas. Wilson, gent; Tully Mcclure, merchant; Joseph H. Scott, moulder; Maurice Wallace, hotel keeper; J. C. McCance, tailor.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS.

Bill to Provide for Lawful Increase.

We have a copy of the bill introduced into the House, by Mr. Christy, "to provide for the lawful increase of the indebtedness of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district." The new Constitution prohibits any such district from incurring an indebtedness exceeding two per centum on the assessed valuation, and from increasing any such debt, or increasing its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such valuation, without the assent of the electors thereof, at a public election, to be provided by law, etc. Under the same section, any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum of its assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum, in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation.

The first section of Mr. Christy's bill is as follows:

That whenever the proper legal authorities of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, deem it necessary for public good, to increase the indebtedness of such county, city, borough, township, school district or other municipality or incorporated district, above two per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, it shall be the duty of such authorities proposing to increase their indebtedness as aforesaid, to give notice by public proclamation or advertisement of such necessity for such increase of indebtedness, the proposed amount, and the purpose for which such increase of indebtedness is to be created, and thereupon shall the qualified electors of the same to meet in their usual place or places of holding their general municipal elections, and vote for or against such increase of indebtedness, at a specified time set forth in said proclamation or advertisement, which shall be three weeks from the date of the same, which action shall be in pursuance of a resolution of the proper legal authorities, to be entered upon the records or minutes thereof, together with all other proceedings relating to the said election: *Provided*, That such indebtedness shall in the aggregate not no exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor increase the same three per centum by complying with the provisions of this act.

The remaining sections prescribe the manner of holding the election, making returns, etc. If a majority shall vote against the increase, no increase shall be authorized.

CRIME IN LUZERNE COUNTY.

Unprovoked Murder at Spring Brook—A Miner Shoots and Kills a Companion—A Jealous Husband Cuts His Wife's Throat—The Wound Not Fatal.

[From the Scranton Republican, February 23.]

The taking of human life and the perpetration of other dendish outrages have become so frequent of late, in this county, that their committal, although of the most revolting character, hardly causes a ripple upon the public mind. Should we look upon it would be as necessary, so little is the interest manifested, either by relatives of the victim or the authorities, to bring the guilty parties to justice. The latest of these outrages was committed at Spring Brook, on Friday night, and we understand there has been no steps taken, as yet, for the arrest of the murderer. The following are the particulars, as given to us by a gentleman from Lackawanna, where Connery lives, are: On Friday, Kelly, with four "chums," induced Connery to accompany them to Scranton. During their stay in the city they visited numerous drinking places, and the result was, they became intoxicated. In the evening the parties started for home, and stopped on their way at Spring Brook to liquor up. While in the saloon a difficulty arose between some of the parties, and it is alleged Patrick Kelly drew out a revolver and shot John Connery in the abdomen, inflicting a fatal wound. Connery was conveyed to his home in Lackawanna, and at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon the attending physician had given up all hopes of his recovery.

Although the crime was committed under the influence of liquor, and in a fracas, yet, from the statements of our informant, it is natural to suppose that it was premeditated. Connery, it is alleged, at one time belonged to an organization called the "Molly McGuires," and becoming disgusted with the villainous object of the society, withdrew from it some four months ago. One month after he had signified his intention to have nothing more to do with it, he was attacked by a party of disguised men one night on his way home, and terribly beaten, from the effects of which it was thought he would not recover. Having failed in their purpose at that time, this plan on Friday was "cocked up" for no other purpose than to engage this man in a quarrel and then take his life. Dead men, you know, tell no tales. Connery and Kelly were miners, and in the employ of the Erie Company.

A Pole by the name of John Maxwell, made a desperate attempt to take the life of his wife on Friday morning at Spring Brook, with a carving knife. The particulars, and it is said they did not live happily, on account of the jealous disposition of the husband, who imagined all sorts of things, if he saw his wife talking with a man. He accused her of an improper intimacy existing between her and a certain teamster in the neighborhood, which was flatly denied by the wife. A day or two previous to the occurrence Mrs. Maxwell and the teamster were seen in conversation, by the husband, whose suspicions were now confirmed beyond a doubt. Believing the infidelity of his wife, which actuated him to attempt the terrible crime of murder. On the morning above stated, when his wife was seated at the breakfast table, Maxwell slipped up behind her and cut her throat from ear to ear with a razor. Although the wound is an ugly one it will not prove fatal. We were astonished to learn that the would-be wife murderer had been arrested and lodged in the Wilkesbarre jail.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 25, 1874.

The local money market is utterly dull and insipid, transactions on the street are limited to those who can furnish good names to back their paper and are willing to pay outside rates. The banks are daily augmenting their deposits, and trying to use their funds to advantage, which is very difficult, owing to the scarceness of good paper offering. In times that were the banks sent their surplus to New York, where they would at least get five per cent. on their balances, but since the panic many of the New York banks have ceased to pay interest on deposit, and those that continue the practice have cut down rates and raised the amount of sale balance required so high that but little is earned from this source.

The dullness which reigns in financial matters is reflected in all departments of trade. All business interests now hinge on the action of Congress on the legal tender circulation, and until something definite is done in this regard we cannot reasonably hope for the infusion of any life or vigor into business operations.

The stock list has been exceedingly tame, and, as will be noticed in the tables given below, the changes have involved a radius of less than one per cent.

In Southern State bonds the Tennessees command prominence, and sales to-day were up to 91 for old and new issues, with offerings at 92 at the close. The past due coupon bonds sold at 70½@71¾, with offerings at 71¾ at the close. Virginias were almost nominal, though consols sold at 51¾, with offerings at 52 at the close. Old North Carolina were offering at 30 at the close, new being 16@20, and the special tax, three series, 10 bid. Old South Carolinas close at 25 bid, and new July and January, 91 sales and bid. Missouris sold up to 95½, closing 95¾, and the St. Jo. issue 91¾ to 92.

Central Pacifics close at 96@96¼, after sales at both figures. Union Pacific firsts sold at 85¾ and 85⅞, leaving off at 85½@85¾. We quote land grants at the close, 81¾@83 (sales at 82). Incomes to the exient of $65,000, sold up from 81 to 82½, with late offerings at 83.

—The income bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad fall due on the first of September next. Holders of them will be offered in exchange a new sinking fund mortgage bond, which will be a second den on the lands and a third on the road. The terms of the exchange have not been definitely agreed on, but probably the new bonds will be offered at 90, in exchange for the incomes at par. The new bonds will bear eight per cent. interest in currency, and have a sinking fund of one per cent., to be invested in such bonds either at par or the highest amount in open market. It is said that those who sign for good, cheap butter are not happy. We quote as follows: Prime to choice at 40@42c; rolls 30@35c; good to prime tidy making these bonds a first mortgage on the lands, which even at present market price are estimated at a greater value than the amount of both the land grant bonds and the new sinking fund mortgages. The company now holds 11,251,312 acres. The average price that these lands have been sold for is $4 22. The income bonds maturing in September are not secured by a mortgage, and it is supposed that the holders of them will readily exchange them for bond a which is secured by a mortgage and protected by a sinking fund.

—In consequence of frequent applications to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics for information in regard to the amount of circulating medium in Great Britain, Mr. Porrenny has prepared the following figures, as a result of the wide divergence of statements on the part of European as well as American financiers, an examination has been made of the published official statistics, and a variety of authorities on the subject consulted, with a view to obtaining approximately accurate data. The results of this investigation have just been prepared, from which it appears the total amount of gold coin circulating in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at the close of 1872 was £94,536,000 sterling, or $470,000,000; bronze, £1,146,000; excess of bank notes over coin reserve, £27,640,000; total circulation of coin and notes, £141,299,000; being equivalent in United States gold coin to $686,442,540. The metallic currency, coin and bullion, of France is given at 4,000,000,000 francs; notes of the Bank of France, 1,800,000,000 francs; bank agent, 2,800,689,625 francs: total, 6,807,689,625 francs. Bimetallic reserve in bank December 28, 759,962,-000 francs, and the currency circulation is 6,047,727,-000 francs, equivalent in United States gold coin, at twenty cents to the franc, to $1,209,545,441. The twenty-two States composing the North German Confederation the supposed aggregate of coin is 2,400,000,000 thalers, and the reserve coin in banks to protect their note circulation is 100,000,000 thalers, leaving in the hands of the people 2,400,000,000 thalers. In the hands of the people amount to 823,159,145 thalers, making coin and notes in the hands of the people 725,594,594 thalers, equivalent in United States gold coin to $585,772,098. The German empire within the last two years has coined about 334,000,000 thalers in gold.

—The following tables show the prices of gold, government bonds, and railway stocks, at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

	Opened.	Closed.
Gold	112¾	112¾
U. S. 6s, 1881, coupons	120¾	120¾
5-20s, 1865	117¾	117¾
5-20s, 1864	119	119¼
5-20s, 1865	120	120½
5-20s, 1865, new	119¾	119¾
5-20s, 1867	120	119¾
5-20s, 1868	119¾	119¾
10-40s, registered	113¾	113¾
10-40s, coupons	116½	116
Currency 6s	116¼	116
Currency 5s	114¾	114¾

February 25, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
Western Union Tele'h	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾
Pacific Mail	19	19	19	19	19
Adams Express	50	50	50	50	50
Wells, Fargo & Co	25	25	25	25	25
American Express	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾
United States Express	50	50	50	50	50
New York Central	104¾	104¾	104¾	104¾	104¾
Erie	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Michigan Central	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Michigan Southern	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
Illinois Central	104	104	104	104	104
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	91	91	91	91	91
Chicago & Northwestern	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾	58¾
Do Preferred	84	84	84	84	84
Rock Island	107¾	107	106¾	106¾	106¾
St. Paul	35¾	35¾	35¾	35¾	35¾
Do Preferred	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾	55¾
Wabash	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾
Fort Wayne	93	93	93	93	93
Ohio and Mississippi	35¾	35¾	35¾	35¾	35¾
Union Pacific	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾	84¾
Chicago and Alton	91	91	91	91	91
Boston, Hartford & Erie	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Quicksilver	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Do Preferred	33¾	33¾	33¾	33¾	33¾

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of stock sales at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	51¾
Penna. Scrip	50¾
Reading	51¾
United Co.'s N. J.	122
Oil Creek	31¾
Lehigh Valley	60
C. & N. W.	30
Central Transportation, bid	50
Empire Transportation, bid	50¾

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

February 21.—There has been considerable movement in both clothing and carpet stock, and prices have been well maintained. Among the more favorable advices from the London sales, which opened on the 17th inst. We are indebted to Messrs. George F. Moore & Co. for the following cable dispatches: "160,000 bales catalogued; large attendance of buyers; no quotable change on December prices. Australian grease unchanged. Cape firm and rather higher; western port, 94d@46d. Canton not buy good port Philip combing grease under 1s6d, and light fleece, 1s4d@1s5d. Adelaide, 14½ to 15d. here comprise 222 bales Cape at 25¾d@26c; 50 do old stock Montevideo, 46c; 50 do English noils, 56c; 75 bales low do, 43c; 150 do Australian, to arrive, 49c; 270 do fall California, 28@29c; 7,500 B do, 26c; 6,000 lb fine do, 29@29½c; 10,000 lb Montevideo, 25@26c; 10,000 lb spring do, 26c; 2,500 lb scoured Oregon, 75c; 4,500 lb black Colorado, 30@31c; 10,000 lb Montevideo, 25@26c; 3,000 lb Montevideo, 26c; 7,000 lb medium unwashed do, 40c; 30,000 lb Texas, 39@40c; 2,000 lb fine do, 53@53½c; 5,000 lb mixed do, 39c; 2,000 lb coarse do, 26c; 3,000 lb do, lambs, 27c.—Shipping List.

COAL MARKETS.

LOUISVIL

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 28th 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

PHILADELPHIA city bonds went up to 2¼ on10 the Stock Exchange as soon as it was known that STOKLEY was elected Mayor. That is an indication too plain to be mistaken.

THE missing iron-clad, the Dictator, rode out the storm successfully, notwithstanding the many fears for her safety that were indulged in. Dictators are not so easily got rid of.

INSANITY, says the *Journal of Mental Science*, is a rare thing among savages. As the savages, however, keep no statistics, it is impossible to say whether insanity is rare among them or not.

THE total imports, exclusive of specie, at the port of New York for last week, were $9,625,667, as against $9,983,675 for the corresponding week of last year. The total imports since January 1, are $54,327,058, against $69,962,896 for the corresponding period of 1873.

THE Georgia papers are largely devoting themselves to enthusiastic descriptions of the Confederate monument which has just been finished and will soon be dedicated at Atlanta, but not one of them intimates the propriety of inviting General SHERMAN to participate in the dedicatory exercises.

THE finances of the country are gradually assuming a healthier tone. The current receipts of internal revenue are now up to, if not in excess of, the amount received before the panic. The receipts then averaged $8,700,000 per month. About $8,800,000 are expected from this source during the present month.

APPEARANCES indicate an early opening of lake navigation. The straits of Mackinaw did not freeze over until late in the season. Reports from points near the straits state that the ice is only moderately thick, and the weather mild. Chicago shippers are already making inquiries for vessels to load with grain for the lower lakes.

THE Patrons of Husbandry begin to attract attention in Canada, and a couple of Granges have been formed in the Dominion. Several papers, also, are devoting articles to the movement on this side of the border, in which reciprocity is advocated as advisable, though not really essential to the prosperity of either the provinces or the States.

A DEMOCRATIC paper out in St. Louis observes that the time has come when sensational reports written up in newspaper offices by beardless boys, who depend mainly on fancy for the elaboration of their efforts, will not be accepted by the reading public. The inference from this statement is that everybody around the office in question has been instructed to raise a beard.

SIMMONS, the man sent to Sing Sing prison from New York city, on a charge of manslaughter, was very rich, and at the head of the lottery fraternity. He made his money by lotteries, and it was business rivalry that prompted him to the fight in which he killed DUNYEA. His riches did not save him from punishment; but probably the New Yorkers do not respect riches made by lottery swindling.

A "CITIZENS' National party," having ramifications all through the States, has been founded in New York; its objects being to so amend the federal Constitution that foreigners may be eligible to the Presidency. We believe the Pittsburgh *Post* was the first paper in the country to propose such an amendment, but it grew tired of advocating it, after a while, as the "new party" leaders will themselves unquestionably do.

ACCORDING to the Chicago *Tribune* there are, in the 1,818 Granges of Iowa, not less than twenty-five thousand women, each of whom is intrusted with a vote. The women are thus being rapidly prepared for the ballot by instruction in parliamentary practice, debate, and general business. There are some 7,000 Granges in the country, to which belong nearly 100,000 women. The advocates of woman suffrage do not appear to have availed themselves of this information.

A BILL has been introduced in Congress to make unauthorized expenditures of money by officials a misdemeanor, and to prescribe a penalty thereof. THE principle of the bill is very important, and could it be carried out it would stop many leaks in the Treasury. But experience has shown that the only real safety for money lies in trusting the minimum amount practicable to officials, the temptation to misspend and the difficulty of discovery and conviction being too great.

THE Massachusetts Supreme Court has decided that under the Constitution of that Commonwealth a woman can be a member of a School Committee. The court holds that the Constitution contains nothing in relation to school committees, and that the common law of the land is the law upon the subject, permitting women to fill any local office of an administrative character, the duties attached to which are such that women are competent to perform them.

IT STRIKES the New York *Post* as not a little singular that the Postmaster General should feel so competent to do the telegraphing, when the Treasury Department, last year, paid an express company $280,000 for transporting bonds and money between Washington and New York, rather than intrust them to the mails. This is a point well taken; but Mr CRESSWELL will never "do the telegraphing" for the country, content on the Treasury himself for the business; the will of the people obstructs the way of his ambition.

THE Supreme Court of Illinois recently held that an Express Company is liable in case of loss only to the amount named on the bill of lading, though the value of the goods is proved to be greater. This has led to the passage of a bill by the Legislature, under which such notices as "good for this day and train only," and "this company will be liable, in case of loss, only for $100," &c., will hereafter be of no avail. This is a needed step towards bringing back the courts to the common law point of departure with respect to the right o freight and passenger carriers to change their liability by notice.

WE HAVE already published a statement of the export trade of the ports of New York and Philadelphia for January of the present year. The ports of Boston and Baltimore, we observe, exhibit an increase in the value of goods shipped in that month over January, 1873, similar to the increase we pointed out with regard to New York and Philadelphia. The combined gain of these four ports is more than six and a quarter million dollars, or twenty-five per cent. over January of last year. It is not to be expected that so large a ratio of increase will be maintained throughout the year, but the trade is at present in a very healthy condition.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Troy *Times* thinks that while Cesarism was under discussion the fact should have been stated that GEORGE CLINTON held the office of Governor of New York for seventeen successive years, and TOMPKINS was Governor for ten years. In Pennsylvania, also, three of the early Governors, MIFFLIN, MCKEAN and SNYDER, served nine years each—MIFFLIN from 1790 to 1799, MCKEAN from 1799 to 1808, and SNYDER from 1808 to 1817. Under the Constitution of 1790, three terms in the Governor's office was the rule, until HESTER'S term. He was elected in 1817, and failed of a re-election in 1820, and after that, two terms was the rule.

BOSTON papers of Saturday state that no decision of the Supreme Court of that Commonwealth, within the past ten years, has given such general satisfaction as that which denies the existence of any constitutional restraints to prevent women from serving as members of a School Committee. The announcement of the decision in the Legislature was heartily cheered, and as the news spread through the city and over the State, expressions of satisfaction were heard everywhere. This is not to be wondered at. There may be numerous other spheres of public duty to which women may properly aspire, but it is quite certain that there are none in which her presence can be more productive of unmixed good.

A NEW YORK paper makes a sensible suggestion, which, if acted upon by the city authorities, would probably be a great relief to the public and prevent much misdirected charity. It is asserted that there are in that city twenty thousand professional beggars, tramps, loafers, etc. More than eight thousand of these vagabonds are billeted upon the Commissioners of Charities, while the others are succored by private charity. It is urged that these people should be put to work for the city in cleaning streets, and other necessary municipal labor, and if too lazy to work subjected to severe punishment. Given the alternative of labor or punishment, the majority would probably agree to serve the city and thus earn support for themselves and families, The scheme certainly appears to be worth a trial.

A CONTRAST.

Other influences besides those of increased facilities for intercommunication have, within the last few years, brought Great Britain nearer to us, and it is safe to say that no general election in the mother islands ever before enlisted such interest among Americans as the general election which has just substituted Conservative for Liberal rule. Here, as in Britain, the suddenness with which the great contest was inaugurated and the rapidity with which it was carried on to its final issue, gave it somewhat of the character of a dramatic entertainment. Those even who neither knew nor cared much about the distinction of English parties or the principles at stake in the conflict could not help watching the progress of the battle with lively concern, and, perhaps for the first time in their lives, felt a little curiosity to learn something more than the general result.

To many Americans, especially those of the younger generation, a notable phenomenon of the late English electoral contest was the violence of the passions which it excited. Every day or almost every day, the telegraph made mention of riotous proceedings, resulting in broken heads and bloody noses, and sometimes in the loss of life. From the newspaper reports it appears that some of these riots were very serious affairs, which were kept from becoming terrible and wide-reaching calamities only by the imposing position of military force. The presence of the most important persons, of the nearest resident Duke or of the Lord Lieutenant of a county, made no difference; it inspired neither fear nor reverence in the rabble. Even the most distinguished leaders of parties were treated by the multitude with as much contempt or indifference as the most obscure candidates. Thus a strong force of soldiers and police was necessary to enable Mr. GLADSTONE to address the people at Greenwich, and, notwithstanding the presence of soldiers and police, there were such displays of passion on the part of the multitude assembled that for a while it was thought hardly safe for the Premier to attempt to deliver his speech. While Mr. DISRAELI was addressing his constituents, the house was steadily bombarded by the mob with sticks, stones and other missiles. Broken windows were, we believe, the only damage, though the speaker's head was sometimes in imminent peril. Mr. LOWE, one of the ablest and most accomplished men in England, did not dare to speak or try to speak in any of the towns, in none even of the towns, before the hazard of his life—a fact to which Mr. DISRAELI in his speech referred as evidence of Mr. LOWE'S unpopularity. The great Parliamentary leader mentioned the fact not to rebuke or lament the savage spirit which it implied in the people, but apparently with much complacence and approbation, as if the fact evinced their intelligence and moral worth.

And yet the people of England cannot fairly be regarded as a naturally unruly or turbulent population. About fifteen thousand soldiers and less than fifteen thousand policemen, suffice to maintain law and order among the twenty odd millions of the island. It really seems to an American rather difficult to account for the violent, boisterous and thoroughly brutal manner in which so many English workingmen bear themselves at elections. Of course intoxicating liquors have much to do with the phenomenon, but this statement affords no sufficient explanation, as drunkenness is merely a part of the degradation. There is, however, some illumination in the fact that, in England, a country largely ruled by traditions, general coarseness of habits and manners, easily running into violence, belongs to the traditional characteristics of the laboring class. Members of this class learn to take as much pride in their own coarse, rude ways as the members of a different class take in elegance and refinement. JOAQUIN MILLER, lately writing in England, says: "I have observed that a man rising from the ranks of the lower people of England persistently refuses to take to himself the manners of a gentleman." In fact, a man who did so would most likely be scorned for his pride by his own class, while by gentlemen he would be laughed at for his affectation. It may also be remembered that the latter class, the gentlemen, have for many generations been accustomed to excite and enlist the passions of the lower or laboring classes in their political contests. Whig and Tory, Liberal and Conservative candidates, through agents often unprincipled, have from time immemorial been wont to spend large sums of money in the struggle for predominance. As a rule, at any rate until a rather recent period, there was little appeal to the reason of the voters and no effort to instruct them. Only their votes were wanted. Old election customs and usages, like other old customs and usages, are hard to overcome in England, and it may be doubted whether even the national schools will overcome them in another half century.

Whatever may be the cause of difference, it must be admitted that a general election in an American State or in the United States presents an agreeable contrast to an election in Great Britain. Here any election riot of any kind is a very rare occurrence, while violent interference with discussion is unknown. As to the vituperation and falsehood in which partisans among us so much indulge, there is hardly room for doubt whether these evils could be with advantage exchanged for the more brutal methods practiced beyond the water. That both the discreditable methods are not there used cannot be referred to the superior virtue or principle of the people, if Mr. STUART MILL told the truth when he said that "the English working classes, though differing from those of some other countries in being ashamed of lying, are yet generally liars."

The truth doubtless is that truly popular, that is republican institutions, with free schools and a free press, cannot but educate the people out of the disposition in any way to interfere forcibly with the machinery of their political life. Nor is it idle to expect that in the course of time the same method of education will render abuse and misrepresentation useless as political enginery, if it does not eradicate the disposition to use them.

THE NEW CHURCH.

Bishop CUMMINS does not appear to be at all discouraged in view of the practical results of his secession from the Protestant Episcopal Church. Last Sunday he told his Steinway Hall congregation that the time had come when they should organize as the first Reformed Episcopal church of New York, whereupon the necessary steps were taken to act upon the suggestion. In these proceedings about one hundred persons took part. The Bishop stated that friends of the movement were organizing all around; that he had just returned from Philadelphia, where two churches would probably be established, and that on next Sunday a church would probably be organized in Brooklyn. There are also reports more or less trustworthy, of not a few clergymen and congregations intending to unite with the new communion. These reports come from the most widely separated sections of the country.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that Bishop CUMMINS's movement has not been without at least some effect upon the attitude towards each other of the leading parties in the church from which the Bishop has seceded. The existence of the parties is so notorious that, we suppose, anybody may speak of them without offense to the most sensitive churchman. It is, we believe, equally notorious that many clergymen, and a much greater number of the lay members of the Low Church party, while disapproving of Dr. CUMMINS's withdrawal and refusing to follow the example, yet express not a little sympathy with his feeling and very decided disgust for the doctrines and the practices which he declined any longer to countenance by his presence. Sagacious High Churchmen are, no doubt, aware that people who feel thus about the Bishop's secession and its cause, may easily be pushed too far, and placed in a position no longer comfortable. When at the reception of the Rev. CHARLES KINGSLEY, a few evenings ago, the Rev. Dr. POTTER, of Grace church, amused the Lotos Club with the anecdote that a member of the TYNG family once told him he called his horse "canon," "because he made him go where he pleased," the Reverend speaker certainly hinted at what is generally believed by his party to be a Low Church characteristic. Whether justly or no we cannot say, but one party believe that the other night, under certain conditions, feel in conscience bound to protest, in some sweeping, revolutionary way, against alleged abuses in the church. Some cannot help fearing that what one Bishop and a few clergymen have done many Bishops and many clergymen may at length be found willing to do, and the apprehension seems to operate in favor of caution and reserve in the matter of objectionable innovations.

A person profoundly conversant with ecclesiastical politics assures us that the influence of the Bishop CUMMINS demonstration was quite apparent in the proceedings of the recent Episcopal Convention of the State of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. It met for the election of a Bishop, but finally adjourned without accomplishing its object. Viewed as an ecclesiastical council, it appears to have been a truly remarkable assembly. The House of Representatives at Washington, amidst the most turbulent debates of *ante bellum* times, presented a scene of gentleness and courtesy in comparison with the Wisconsin convention. Epithets almost too coarse for repetition were freely exchanged by both preachers and laity, and at times a violent conflict seemed imminent. To find a parallel for the scenes exhibited during the days the convention remained in session, one would have to go back to the ecclesiastical councils of the early centuries, when only the presence of the Emperor or his Prefect prevented the assembled bishops from coming to blows. It is said—we know not how justly—that in Wisconsin and elsewhere the antagonism of parties has been intensified by the anxiety which the Bishop CUMMINS movement has produced.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS AND THE CRUSADE.

An aspect of the female temperance crusade, not heretofore referred to in the way of comment, so far as we know, is its probable relation to the general question of woman's rights. There can be no doubt that a majority of women, as well as most men, shrink away from the social and political revolution which must inevitably result from the reform proposed. Every person of reflection perceives that nothing less than revolution is involved in the proposal to remove all the legal barriers and social obstructions, which at present exclude one sex from the exercise of rights and privileges possessed by the other. It is easy to see that the change desired would not be effected by merely conferring on women the right of suffrage. In order to secure for themselves the means of exerting in the affairs of government and society a degree of influence proportionate to their number women would, of course, have to participate in the various professions and departments of business which play so important a part in social and political life.

But while every one perceives what a tremendous overturning of things established would thus come about, perhaps few can form any adequate idea of the revolution. In fact, few comparatively have ever seriously reflected on the psychological differences between women and men, or on the consequences which must follow from the ascendancy of feminine character in legislation and government. Even those who have reflected on the subject have been too much wont to look only or chiefly at phases of it favorable to the change. They think only or chiefly of feminine sensitiveness to certain forms of evil, feminine tenderness of heart, and other feminine virtues, while they exclude or ignore, or are positively unable to see "malign aspects." It is only when circumstances, when actual developments of fact lay open the moral view antagonistic tendencies that some people are enabled to look at the other side of the subject. Thus, in England, where the right of suffrage in a restricted sense, is all that the agitators of the great question ask for, the current of opinion among members of Parliament was for a while daily growing stronger in favor of granting the women's petition. But at length this sentiment was almost entirely changed by the conduct and spirit displayed by distinguished ladies in discussing another great social question which happened to engage public attention. We need not enter into details farther than to say that these women, highly educated and of unimpeachable respectability, showed unmistakably that they not only did not regard but could not comprehend a plain principle of English justice and liberty, and that, if they could carry their point—in fact to the extent to which it seemed to them—they were quite ready to fling to the wind the whole system of checks and guards by which the rights of the British subject are secured. With or without reason, members began to say—it will not do to admit them, for the present at least, to a share in the government.

It may be an offensive thing to say, but it is the truth, that the feminine crusaders in the cause of temperance are making an impression upon the public mind by no means favorable to the recognition of their right and fitness to take part in either legislation or administration. Doubtless some, perhaps many of these have suffered terribly from the drunkenness of relatives, and are therefore entitled to a certain sympathy in their warfare on the ministers of the evil. Sympathy, however, may not blind good citizens to the fact that the crusaders are carried away by feeling, that they appear blind to the claims of law and equity, and that for the sake of an immediate good result, they prove themselves careless about remote consequences certain to be lamentable.

MOIETIES TO INFORMERS.

The resignation of JAYNE, the Treasury agent at New York, following immediately after the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress showing that JAYNE had pocketed about a quarter of a million of dollars as his share of the penalties exacted from persons offending against the Revenue laws, is a good sign, and affords hope that Congress will wipe from the statute books the disgraceful system.

The original purpose of the moiety system was to stimulate the customs officers to greater watchfulness, inasmuch as the informer was entitled to one-half of the penalty inflicted upon all who attempted to defraud the government; but, however well the system may have worked when importations were comparatively small and the business of the country was on a limited scale, it works most unfairly, now, when the importations have grown enormously large, and the business of the country is so much extended. For the aim of the common informer, like JAYNE, is not to prevent or punish the ordinary small frauds upon the revenue, but to catch the large importers in some merely *technical* offense, and then to insist on the infliction of the severest penalties.

JAYNE made his quarter of a million, in this way; and although the government got another quarter of a million, in the cases prosecuted by him, in addition to the revenue regularly collected from the offenders, it was practically none the better of the prosecutions. The $250,000 pocketed by the informer did not come out of the Treasury, but out of the pockets of the merchants detected in violating the Revenue laws, and the government Treasury was replenished to a similar extent from the same source, yet the proper enforcement of the Revenue laws was not increased, nor was smuggling, or other kinds of fraud, prevented. The offenses prosecuted were not real, actual attempts at fraud, but mere technical violations of the laws, involving but a few dollars of actual revenues; and hence their prosecution simply worried and annoyed those who were made victims, without contributing a particle towards a better observance of the law. And this is the natural tendency of all high rewards. Where heavy penalties are prescribed for offenses, and the informer gets half for his agency in ferreting them out, he does not care a bawbee whether the offense is a wilful or technical one, so that he gets his moiety. Some men disobey the laws wilfully and designedly, others carelessly and ignorantly. The former deserve the severest punishment, and the latter may not deserve any; but both are alike to the informer. If he can trace the offense home, no matter how innocently it may have been committed, he is entitled to his moiety. The history of the prosecutions in New York and Boston will show that nine-tenths of the alleged offenses were unintentional, yet the offenders have been forced to pay millions in penalties, one-half of which has gone to the informers, and the other half into the Treasury.

It is high time, therefore, to abolish the whole system. The regular officials of the government ought to be able to enforce its laws without the aid of spies and informers; and when JAYNE gets ashamed enough to resign, Congress ought to have pluck enough to deprive his whole tribe of their vocation.

THE FINANCES.

The Senate has so far voted down all propositions looking towards free banking, but has given no decisive indication of its purposes.

Mr. SHERMAN's scheme to transfer to the West and South from New England the right to establish new national banks with capital to the extent of $25,000,000, reducing to that extent the amount now invested in national banks in the New England States, does not strike us favorably as a measure of relief to the Southern and Western States. These sections need more capital much worse than the right to invest it; and until they have it, there seems but little use in devising ways and means for employing it.

Let us suppose either Mr. CAMERON's method—that of free banking—to be adopted, or Mr. SHERMAN's; what good would either do to the South and West? If Mr. SHERMAN's plan be adopted, has the South and West got the United States bonds necessary to establish banks with an aggregate capital of $25,000,000? If they have, they can obtain all the money they need by selling them in New York, and much more than they can get by issuing national bank notes upon them. Have they, on the other hand, sufficient money or commodities to buy the bonds necessary to start the new banks? Then they already have as much money in hand as the banks could give them. It does not seem to us, therefore, that Mr. SHERMAN's plan can help the South and West one particle.

If Mr. CAMERON's plan, that of free banking, be adopted, the result will be the same, so far as the present local capital of those regions is concerned. If they have the capital to start new banks, they do not specially need them, so far as the mere supply of money is concerned; and if they have not got it, they cannot start them. There is this difference, however: if banking were made free, Congress might add on SHERMAN's plan of equalizing the distribution of banks, according to population. In that case, whatever new banks were started, would have to be started in the South and West, the East having already more than its share; and Eastern capital, inclined to engage in banking, would thus be driven to the more needy regions for employment in that direction.

It is plain that the mere right to engage in banking carries with it no benefit, unless the needed capital can be secured with it. Mr. SHERMAN may ask, indeed, why banking capital from the East would be more apt to migrate under free banking than under his scheme; and we would answer, because free banking has no limit, and your scheme has. Twenty-five millions is a small sum in banking; and capital is not likely to change its *habitat* except under strong inducement.

Upon the whole, then, we prefer the free banking plan, each State to have its proportionate share. We prefer it, not because we believe in expansion, but because it seems the only way out of present difficulties. The nation cannot be kept in suspense forever between rival financial systems. We must settle down upon something; and free banking seems to us the simplest, and the easiest understood plan. Congress must dispose of this financial question, in some shape or other. The people cannot longer be kept hanging by the eyelids. Let us have a solution of the problem, in some way, no matter how.

BLACKMAILERS UNMASKED.

Our readers will remember how, last year, a committee appointed by the Democratic Central Committee of Dauphin county, waited upon the Auditor General and demanded that the returns of State money on deposit in the banks should be submitted to their examination. The Auditor General being absent, the clerk upon whom the demand was made refused compliance, and the committee, flushed with indignation, hastened into the Supreme Court and asked for a mandamus upon the Auditor General to compel him to show the papers they wanted to examine.

Our readers will also remember how all the Democratic papers in the State, aided by the New York *Tribune* and *World*, raved and swore over this refusal to permit the examination demanded, as a plain evidence of corruption in the State Treasury. It was the one morsel of comfort they had, in that campaign, and they rolled it under their tongues with a rare sense of enjoyment.

The chairman of this baffled smelling committee was J. MONROE KRIDER, Esq., a leading Democrat of Harrisburg, and the application for mandamus was made in his name. He was the AJAX TELAMON among honest men. He had scented out corruption in the State Treasurer's office, and it was his mission to expose it. The New York *Tribune* was delighted to know that so good a man could possibly come out of Nazareth; and meanwhile the water of expectation dribbled from its gaping chops while it stood waiting for the awful developments sure to ensue.

We are sorry to hear, therefore, that J. MONROE KRIDER, Esq., the honest, the incorruptible KRIDER, has come to grief; and that instead of his having the opportunity to expose corruption, the corruption has fallen upon him. In connection with a Democratic member of the House, he has been arrested upon the charge of sending out the blackmailing circulars, by which it was sought to bleed the banks of the State, by assessing them heavily for funds to secure the passage of the bill repealing the Usury laws. It is a clear case of blackmailing; and whether the money was to be pocketed, or used, as intimated, to corrupt the Legislature, the purpose was a vile one, and the means used disgraceful.

It will be noted that both the persons charged with this act are Democrats, and that one of them thrust himself into notoriety as an exceptionally honest man, while the other is a member of the Legislature. Their detection and exposure must be peculiarly mortifying to the Democrats of the State; as must be also the kindred fact that the first corrupt attempt to use or obtain money, under the new Constitution, has been traced to well-known Democrats. We await the indignant comments of the Democratic press of the State.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

The capital now employed by the National Banks is $354,000,000. Mr. MERRIMON's amendment to SHERMAN's bill increases this to $400,000,000. The addition to the banking capital of the country, should this amendment prevail finally, will be $46,000,000.

The addition to the greenback circulation, which the House is sure to authorize, is $44,000,000, of which all but $17,000,000 is now in circulation. The total increase by both methods will therefore be $80,000,000, and $63,000,000 above the amount now actually if not legally, in use. The greenback circulation, it will be remembered, was originally $400,000,000. MCCULLOCH, while Secretary of the Treasury, retired $44,000,000 of this, leaving the amount, prior to the late panic, at $356,000,000. Secretary RICHARDSON claims the right to re-issue the $44,000,000 thus retired, and has already issued $27,000,000 of it; and it seems certain that Congress will legalize this, and restore the old limit of $400,000,000 to the greenback circulation.

If Free Banking should not be established, it is safe, we think, to conclude that the increase above detailed will be agreed to, and that henceforth we may fix the limit of the circulating medium of the country at $800,000,000. The National Banks will have a capital of $400,000,000, but their circulation will be but ninety per cent. of this sum. The fractional currency, however, is over $40,000,000, and the grand total, consequently, will be as we have indicated—greenbacks, $400,000,000; National bank notes, $360,000,000; fractional currency, $43,000,000—total, $803,000,000.

We do not undertake to pass upon the question whether this will be sufficient or not—but we think we come to the conclusion that this is about all that the country need expect. The fears of expansion on the one hand, and of contraction on the other, have seemed to force things to this focus.

For ourselves, we are free to say that we prefer Free Banking, without limit as to amount, to any increase of the currency up to a defined limit, which cannot be passed. We shall do very well as long as the limit is not reached; but the moment it *is* reached, we shall be just where we are now, impatient of the restraint and urgent to break over it. Congress, however, does not seem willing to accept this philosophy; and the business men of the country *have* philosophy enough, it is to be hoped, to accept what is inevitable, and wait for what is to come.

RAILROAD INDESTRUCTIBLENESS.

In the general direction of economy and the attempt to increase the revenues by rigid collections, the important question of nonpayment of debts due the government from Pacific railroads is again brought up. The Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* has compiled a statement showing that the account of these roads with the government is as follows:

THIRTY-YEAR BONDS BEARING INTEREST IN CURRENCY AT SIX PER CENT. ISSUED TO PACIFIC RAILROADS.

Name of Railroad.	Principal outstanding.	Interest repaid by trans. portation of mails, etc.	Interest paid by the United States.	Balance of Principal and Interest unpaid.
Central Pacific..	$25,885,120 00	$ 811,359 24	$7,989,657 62	
Kansas Pacific....	6,303,000 00	1,206,622 05	1,191,991 68	
Union Pacific....	27,236,512 00	2,711,892 44	6,721,146 13	
Central Branch, Union Pacific.	1,600,000 00	25,649 28	812,164 90	
Western Pacific..	1,970,560 00	9,967 09	385,962 91	
Sioux City and Pacific.....	1,628,320 00	7,141 23	526,013 86	
Totals.....	$64,623,512 00	$4,800,631 21	$17,626,936 61	

In addition to the accrued interest on the first of February was $523,117 56. None of these railroads have yet paid the government a dollar in money on any account, although their interest is payable semi-annually. It cannot be complained that the companies are poor, for according to official figures they have made a good deal of money. The most sanguine friends of the Union and Central Pacific Railroad companies did not predict the financial success they have already achieved. The total bonded debt of the Central Pacific is $80,441,800, and that of the Union Pacific $76,166,024, making an aggregate of $156,607,824; while the earnings of the two roads, for the past four years, have been equal to six per cent. on $224,000,000. It is believed that, in two or three years, with careful and honest management, the net earnings of the Union Pacific Railroad should be $12,000,000, which would pay all the interest, leaving the land grants to take care of the land grant bonds, and leave a handsome sum to divide on the stock. The subject is one that commends itself to the advocates of the Pacific railroads, as well as to the advocates of payment of interest due on the subsidy bonds, and honest management of those railroad enterprises which partake of a national character.

SIR HENRY THOMPSON, the celebrated British surgeon, has thrown the weight of his influence in favor of the practice of cremation or urn-sepulture as a method of treating the human body after death, instead of the present practice of burial, unpleasant in its associations and prejudicial to the health of the living. In connection with this subject the Boston *Globe* notes the following interesting fact:

It has been clearly shown that animal bodies can be reduced to their constituent elements in the quickest, safest, and least unpleasant manner by the process of burning or cremation. Recent experiments made by Dr. Brunetti, professor of pathological anatomy in the University of Padua (the results of which were exhibited at the recent Exposition of Vienna, and there carefully examined by Sir Henry Thompson,) show that the entire process of incineration of an adult human body occupies but three and a half hours, and that the cost is only about sixty cents in our money. The ashes and bone earth will weigh about four pounds, will be delicately white and can be contained in a glass box about twelve inches long, eight inches wide and eight deep. The adoption of some such process as this need not, as some persons imagine, do away with religious funeral rites, or prevent the tribute of devotion at a shrine. Indeed the former might be made more solemn and touching, and the latter more frequent and practicable, by the substitution of urn-sepulture for earth burial; and, certainly, the dissipation of almost the whole body in the ethereal form of gaseous matter is far more typical of another and a higher life than the consignment of the mortal remains of the dreadful dishonors of the grave.

WE FIND the following "society" paragraph in the columns of a late Washington paper:

"Among the pleasant and interesting entertainments of last week was one given by Mrs. ——— to the little ones in honor of the sixth birthday of her daughter, who received her young guests with the grace and dignity of one of more mature years. The refreshments were of a very dainty character, champagne being served in glasses scarcely larger than a child's thimble. The costumes of all present were rich and beautiful. The little ones enjoyed themselves hugely for the three hours allotted them, and then retired to blissful dreams of the happy event."

Hardly anything is more beautiful than to see children enjoy themselves in a childlike way; but, on the other hand, hardly anything is more saddening to the thoughtful observer than to witness the natural vitality and enthusiasm of childhood vitiated by miniature imitations of grown people's parties and manners, perverting them into Lilliputian men and women, with the passions and petty envy and malice of the mature social ephemera. Our voice is, Keep the little ones children as long as may be. Every father ought to insist that the rising generation shall not be ruined by premature luxury and dissipation; and every mother should take the same lesson to heart, if she would have her offspring rise up and call her blessed. The tendency of these costly and fashionable juvenile entertainments is to make those who participate in them blase before they reach their teens.

AN ATTEMPT was made last year, in the State of New York, to take from the people the right to elect their own judges, and it failed ignominiously. The same fate, we are pleased to note, has fallen upon a second attempt in the same direction. A commission, composed of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, was appointed in Governor HOFFMAN'S time, to report amendments to the Constitution. These amendments were submitted to the last Legislature of that State, and approved; but coming up again this winter (the Constitution requiring them to have the assent of two Legislatures successively), a determined fight was made upon the principal amendment, which gave to the Governor the power to appoint all the judges. It provided, also, for taking away from the people their right to elect their own officers, and conferring the power of appointment on the Governor. The House, by a very decided vote, defeated it, and the other amendments fell with it. The Constitution tinkers of New York have therefore had two distinct notices not to attempt again their game of depriving the people of their rightful power.

THE general conclusions to be drawn from the tone of our principal exchanges concerning the industrial and financial outlook, are that business throughout the country, particularly in the leading manufacturing districts of New England and our own State, is now in a good condition, and that many of the industries are in as flourishing a situation as before the panic. Nearly all the cotton factories are running on full time and at a profit. The woolen manufacturers, owing to the enforced idleness of a large class of consumers of heavy goods and the mild weather, are in a less prosperous condition. The vast boot and shoe business of New England, although now in a fairly prosperous condition, was materially interfered with by the same influence noticed in regard to woolen goods. At the leading money centers of the country, the month of January showed a marked improvement over that of 1873. On the whole, the prospects are every way hopeful and encouraging.

WITHOUT question, there is, in Philadelphia, proportionately as much humanity, intelligence and moral principle as in any community in the world. According to the *Press*, however, it is little better than a loathsome mass of corruption—a veritable sink of ignorance, folly, violence, robbery and crime. Such is the natural and inevitable inference one would derive from that paper's distorted descriptions and statements concerning the Republican municipal government of Philadelphia. Fortunately, however, the frantic efforts of the *Press* to use the virtue appeal as a new and incredible thing, and thereby weaken the hold of conscience on all other communities, have met with nothing but ignominious failure. The *Press*, as has again and again been shown, is neither a moral nor political representative of the people of Philadelphia—and now let us hope it will learn modesty, if not wisdom.

LIKE their brethren in New York, the communistic agitators of Chicago greatly exaggerated the extent and severity of the suffering among the laboring classes of that city, and it seems certain that Congress will legalize this, and restore the old limit of $400,000,000 to the greenback circulation.

The Jackson *Standard* says: Huron Iron Company have completed their shaft. It is sixty-one feet to the coal, and the coal is three and a half feet in thickness.

Toledo has an eccentric female who can sit on the floor and kick a man's hat off. She is now in jail for chewing off one of her child's toes. Genius will get under a cloud occasionally.

A young man of Wayne county, who accidentally cut a frightful gash in his leg with an ax, refused to send for a surgeon, and sewed up the wound himself with "imperturbable coolness."

There is yet a gap of about six miles in the Marietta, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Railroad. The work is being pushed forward, and the road will soon be in running order for its entire length.

A railroad from Cumberland to the Marietta, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Railway at Point Pleasant will probably be commenced next spring and completed before the end of the summer. So says the Guernsey *Times*.

The Medina *Gazette* says there is not a road in that or any other county on the Reserve, that is better now than it was twenty-five years ago. They were impassable then, at certain seasons, and they are still found periodically in that condition.

The citizens of Washington Court House, who formerly were accustomed to put away one hundred kegs of Cincinnati beer daily, don't order any more. The question now agitating the Cincinnati brewers, is whether they changed off to whisky, or buy their beer at some other point.

FANCY FINANCIERING.

The Doings and Undoing of Rush R. Sloane, Ohio's Defaulting Railroad King—Effected and Undone by Fickle—His Alleged Wife and Her Parents Follow Him—Romance Now, Reality to Come.

During a few days past the telegraph has brought to us a little news as to the case of Rush R. Sloane, of Sandusky, Ohio, a gentleman in whom the public takes considerable interest, just now. The correspondent of the Cleveland *Herald*, writing from Sandusky under date of the 17th, gives the following facts concerning the fugitive railway magnate:

RUSH R. SLOANE

was born, I am informed, in Sandusky, and has spent his life in that place. In early manhood he chose the profession of law, and was admitted to the bar some twenty years ago. About the year 1857 he was elected Probate Judge of Erie county, to fill a vacancy, and was subsequently re-elected for a full term. He then served for several years in the capacity of special postoffice agent, under the United States government, his district embracing several States. It is charged, and was effectively used against him in the Congressional campaign, that he made a large amount of money while he held this position by receiving liberal fees from persons whom he recommended and secured the appointment of, as route agents, postmasters, clerks, etc.

Mr. Sloane lived in elegant style, his residence being by odds the finest in Sandusky, finished and furnished throughout regardless of expense, with all the accessories of grounds and exterior adornments to correspond. He has been twice married. By his first wife he has two sons, the elder of whom is at Harvard College, and the younger is the one referred to in connection with the proceedings in the Mayor's court. His second wife died near the close of the year 1872, leaving an infant son. Whether Mr. Sloane is now married for the third time is a matter of conjecture, with the chances in favor of the affirmative, but of this romantic feature of the case I will speak presently. Mr. Sloane professed to experience religion in the winter of 1872-3, and my informant says that he "talked for Jesus beautifully" at the revival meetings during that winter. It is feared that he has fallen from grace.

THE ALLEGED FRAUDS.

For six or eight months prior to Mr. Sloane's removal from the presidency of the railroad company, other officers were at work ferreting out his erratic operations. The investigation was conducted with the utmost secrecy, but no effort was spared to make it thorough. Mr. Sloane was deposed on the 15th of October last. Before any legal proceedings were instituted against him, a proposition was made to him to the effect that no appeal would be made to the law, provided he would reimburse the company for its losses by the alleged appropriation of funds to his private use, and a specified time was allowed for him to accept the alternative. He saw fit not to do so, and civil action was then begun. The examination of the books and records of the company, covering the whole time since Mr. Sloane's accession to the presidency, has been continued, and is still unfinished. From time to time, as new discoveries were made, giving new causes of action, the petitions—an abstract of which was given in a former article—were filed, and attachments taken out upon his property. Then it was determined to bring criminal action, upon the charge of embezzlement, and this quickly brought matters to a head, with the result already known. The affidavits in this case, detailed above, were filed with the Mayor last Friday, the day the arrest was made. A former treasurer of the company, a highly reputable citizen of Sandusky, states that he was removed by Mr. Sloane because he refused to make false entries in the company's books, at his bidding.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

of the company is John S. Barlow, Esq., a wealthy and "solid" citizen of Boston. He is said to be at present the largest owner of the stock of the road. The stock is largely held in the East, particularly in Boston, and the holders sought to protect their interests by elevating to the "vacant chair" a man whom they knew. Hitherto Mr. Sloane, who owned and controlled a large amount of the stock, had everything pretty much his own way. Mr. Farlow is a quiet, unobtrusive gentleman, past middle age, and said to possess excellent judgment and administrative ability. He says but little, and when he does speak he always means business. Since his election he has spent considerable time in Sandusky looking to the interests of the company and the welfare of the road. For two or three weeks past he has given his entire time and attention to the investigation of the irregularities of his predecessor. From the first Mr. Sloane has vehemently and persistently denied that he has been guilty of any fraud whatever, declaring that the whole proceeding was nothing but a malicious persecution.

PRESIDENT VS. EX-PRESIDENT.

In November last, two or three weeks after the change in the presidency, and just after the filing of the first petition in the Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Farlow, the new President, met Mr. Sloane at the Lake House, in Sandusky, and they had a short interview in relation to the alleged fraudulent practices of the latter. Mr. Farlow told Mr. Sloane that before the recent unpleasant discoveries he had always felt the fullest confidence in his integrity, and were he not fully convinced of the fact, it would be very hard for him to believe that he (Mr. Sloane) had been guilty of appropriating to his own use money belonging to the company. He said that if he would confess his wrong doing, and make reasonable and just restit